Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-92-060
Friday
27 March 1992

Daily Report
Latin America

FBIS-LAT-92-060 *27 March 1992*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

FRONT PAGE

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

'Double Standard' Noted Regarding Terrorism *[Havana Radio]* 2
Castro Aide Announces Democratization of System *[Bonaire Radio]* 2
Minister Wants Paraguayan Ties, No 'Pressure' *[Asuncion ABC COLOR 26 Mar]* 2
Aldana on Eastern Europe, Youth in Revolution *[Havana Radio]* 3
Shortages of Basic Products in Russia Noted *[Havana Radio]* 4
Food Program Donates $23 Million in Milk Products *[Havana TV]* 4
Isle of Youth Holds SUVP Exercise to 1 Apr *[Havana Radio]* 4
'Moderate' Tornado Damages Crops, Homes *[Havana Radio]* 4
Tourist Flights Made Available to Citizens *[Havana Radio]* 5
Canarian Delegation Sends Message of Solidarity *[Havana Radio]* 5
Cooperation Agreement Signed With Spanish Agency *[Havana Radio]* 5

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Human Rights Group Advises OAS Haiti Mission *[CANA]* 5
Grenada: Cuba Meets Conditions for Relations *[CANA]* 6

Haiti

Theodore Address Warns of National 'Exhaustion' *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 6
Government Dismisses Remarks *[Bonaire Radio]* 8
Court 'Has Week' To Rule on Executive Request *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 8
Canadian Ambassador Meets With Medard on 25 Mar *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 8
Mondestin on Government Communique on Bribes *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 8

CENTRAL AMERICA

El Salvador

Pacas Reports to Deputies on ONUSAL Ties *[LA PRENSA GRAFICA 25 Mar]* 9
Civilian Police Coordinator on New Academy *[San Salvador Radio]* 9
FMLN Station Views U.S. Extradition Request *[Radio Farabundo Marti]* 9
Government Effort To Increase Police Discussed *[Radio Farabundo Marti]* 10
Station Commentary Says Copaz Work 'Failed' *[San Salvador Radio]* 10

Guatemala

'Powerful' Bomb Explosion at University Reported *[Guatemala TV]* 11
GAM Leader Charges Army With Harassment *[Guatemala TV]* 11

Honduras

Callejas Responds to Ortega Offer on ICJ Suit *[EL HERALDO 26 Mar]* 12
* Discua Elvir's Plan To Reform Armed Forces *[EL HERALDO 24 Feb]* 12
* CODEH Reports Human Rights Offenses 1988-91 *[LA TRIBUNA 20 Jan]* 13
* Further Reporting on Abuses *[EL HERALDO 13 Feb]* 13

Nicaragua

UNO Accuses Presidency of Siding With FSLN *[Managua Radio]* 14
UNO Leader Sees Chamorro-FSLN 'Dictatorship' *[Managua Radio]* 15
Disarmament Effort Exceeds Expected Costs *[Managua Radio]* 16
Armed Men Reportedly Occupy Sugar Refinery *[Managua Radio]* 16

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Bomb Threats Continue To Plague Buenos Aires 17
Uruguayan Embassy Threatened *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 17
Spanish Embassy Threatened *[TELAM]* 17
Over 20 Threats Received *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 26 Mar]* 17
Menem, Nicaragua's Chamorro Sign Declaration *[TELAM]* 17
Chamorro Ends Visit *[TELAM]* 18
Debt Talks Reportedly Reaching 'Final Stage' *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 26 Mar]* 19
Military Industries To Be Privatized by Dec *[BUENOS AIRES HERALD 26 Mar]* 19

Bolivia

Deputy Lanza Calls U.S. Ambassador 'Liar' *[EL DIARIO 19 Mar]* 19
Low Salaries Cause 'Problems' With Police *[La Paz Radio]* 20
Teachers Reject Proposal; Strike Continues *[La Paz Radio]* 20
Drug Mafias Reportedly Not Aiding Terrorists *[EL DIARIO 19 Mar]* 20

Brazil

Creation of Government Secretariat Approved *[Brasilia Radio]* 21
Collor Demands Investigation of Leoni Case *[Brasilia Radio]* 21
PLO Denies Link To Argentine Attack *[O GLOBO 26 Mar]* 21
Correction To Economy Minister on Taxes, Debt 21

Colombia

Gaviria Speaks on Peace Talks, Tax Reform *[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio/TV]* 22
Adviser Requests Support for Peace Process *[Santa Fe de Bogota TV]* 24
Foreign Minister Comments on Gulf Border Dispute *[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio]* 24
Trade Minister on Agreement With Venezuela *[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio]* 24

Peru

State of Emergency Extended in 3 Departments *[AFP]* 25
* Results of New Consumer Confidence Index Noted *[SEMANA ECONOMICA 17 Feb]* 25

Venezuela

Students Arrested, Injured in Demonstrations *[Caracas Radio]* 26
Further on Clash *[AFP]* 27
Coup Leader Warns of Possible High Command Move *[Madrid EFE]* 27
'Possible U.S. Intervention' *[Mexico City NOTIMEX]* 28
Deputies Reject Censure Vote Against Ministers *[Caracas TV]* 28
Interior Minister Apologizes to Journalists *[Caracas TV]* 29

Haiti

In a paid political announcement carried by Port-au-Prince radio on 26 March, Prime Minister-Designate Rene Theodore warned "citizens who are attempting to hold the country hostage" that Haiti is "exhausted" and "backed into a corner." Assuring listeners that OAS involvement in negotiations does not mean "another foreign occupation" or that "whites will control the public administration," Theodore promised a "consensus government" providing for participation by various sectors of the national life.

Venezuela

Mexico City NOTIMEX reports that leaders of the 4 February foiled coup warned on 26 March about the "possibility of another military uprising, this time led by right-wing military commanders." The report adds that coup leader Hugo Chavez said that "he had information that people had been sent by the military high command to negotiate a possible alliance and to lead a new coup, which the rebels rejected."

Caracas radio reports that 20 students were arrested and 12 injured in Valencia on 26 March when police used tear gas to intercept "peaceful" demonstrations demanding the restoration of constitutional guarantees and an end to "police repression." The president of the Federation of University Centers in Carabobo was reportedly among those arrested.

Colombia

President Gaviria delivers a live speech on Santa Fe de Bogota radio and TV in which he addresses "concerns" of all Colombians—tax reform and the recent breakdown in peace talks with the CNGSB. Regarding the guerrillas, Gaviria expresses his hope that the CNGSB will "have an appropriate answer to the peace policy to which the government is committed." He emphasizes, however, that the CNGSB "must realize that just as the government has a political solution in its hands, it is also prepared to respond by strengthening the Armed Forces." Gaviria sums up the tax reform as being "fundamentally aimed at punishing and taxing luxury consumption, primarily among the most affluent sectors of society."

Argentina

TELAM carries a report on a joint communique signed by President Menem and Nicaraguan President Chamorro in which they "reaffirmed the need to strengthen Latin American integration" and expressed their commitment to consolidating democracy in Latin America." They also emphasized "their conviction that the stability of the region's countries is 'closely related' to their respective socioeconomic development." The report says that the Argentine and Nicaraguan foreign ministers signed agreements to fight drug trafficking and eliminated the visa requirement for travel between the two countries.

Cuba

'Double Standard' Noted Regarding Terrorism

FL2603164992 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 26 Mar 92

["Our Opinion" commentary by Orlando Contreras]

[Text] According to news agency dispatches this morning, the UN Security Council will hold consultations today, 26 March, in connection with the draft resolution sponsored jointly by the United States, France, and Great Britain. This draft resolution is aimed at applying military, economic, and diplomatic sanctions to Libya. The UN Security Council is expected to reach a decision on this matter tomorrow.

The three countries asking for the adoption of this resolution and threatening sanctions, including military sanctions, are demanding that Libya turn over six Libyan citizens suspected of having been responsible for a 1988 attack on a plane belonging to the now-bankrupt Pan American Airlines and a 1989 attack on a French UTA plane. These attacks resulted in the deaths of 441 persons. Libya is claiming innocence.

Before getting into the analysis of this problem, I would like to make it clear that, in principle, I find such attacks on civilian planes, which make victims of totally innocent people, unacceptable, and therefore reprehensible any way you look at it. However, I do think it is only right to recall that the hijackings and attacks on civilian aircraft began in the first few years of our Revolution, when the CIA encouraged them.

In 1976, a Cubana de Aviacion DC-8 that had just taken off from Barbados crashed into the sea when the plane became uncontrollable and explosive devices placed on board by individuals acting under instructions from the CIA went off. The person with the most intellectual responsibility for that attack, a man known to be a CIA collaborator and activist, was given protection in the United States after an elaborate escape from a high-security prison in Venezuela.

In the case of the U.S. and French planes, the United States is demanding that Libya hand over the suspects to be tried on U.S. territory. Libya has said it will turn the suspects over to the Arab League if the International Court of Justice in The Hague, a tribunal that falls under the United Nations, finds evidence of guilt.

I reiterate: Those who attack civilian planes and innocent passengers deserve to be repudiated and punished. But there cannot be a double standard regarding this matter. If the plane belongs to a small country and the victims are young athletes who have just won a Pan-American trophy—as was the case of the young Cuban fencing team that died in the vile and unpardonable attack against the Cubana de Aviacion plane—the guilty parties, those who plan the crime, those who encourage it and give the murderers protection, all go unpunished.

However, if the victims are from Western powers, then the Security Council takes a stand on the matter and the authority of the International Court in The Hague to determine guilt or innocence, based on the evidence, is ignored. To accept such methods is to confirm one law for the rich and an absence of justice when the victims are from an underdeveloped country.

Lastly, and now in a different vein: It does not seem an innocent, chance occurrence that Bush presents this ultimatum against Libya just seven months before the presidential elections. The value that Bush brandishes as a candidate is the unipolar might of the United States following the collapse of European socialism and the Gulf War. The fact that there are 37 million poor, and close to 10 million unemployed persons, in the United States and that the economy cannot seem to recover fully can be shoved into the background if a Rambo-type operation further inflames the nationalism of the manipulated U.S. society.

Castro Aide Announces Democratization of System

FL2603125092 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] A close aide of President Fidel Castro says the Cuban Government will make its one-party system more democratic. However, the aide says Cuba will not be forced into reform by international pressure. Cuban Politburo member Carlos Aldana says voters will be able to select candidates and to secretly and directly elect deputies. He told the REUTERS new agency that the changes were decided on last October by the Cuban ruling Communist Party.

Minister Wants Paraguayan Ties, No 'Pressure'

PY2603225492 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 26 Mar 92 p 8

[Report by Rafael Gunsett in Havana]

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca has said that the Republic of Cuba considers useful the resumption of diplomatic relations with our country, adding that it does not want to pressure the Paraguayan authorities into an agreement. The Cuban minister said he is aware of [former Paraguayan President General Alfredo] Stroessner's interest in returning to Paraguay, but pointed out that it would be difficult because the country has already begun a democratic opening process.

The usefulness of reestablishing relations between Cuba and Paraguay, while not urgent, was stressed by Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca in response to questions during a meeting with students from various countries in the world, including Paraguay.

During this meeting Malmierca talked at length about Cuban foreign policy in general, ratifying what is already known and dedicating a good part of his speech to the Paraguayan issue. He recalled the first Ibero-American

summit last year in Guadalajara, Mexico, where he talked with his Paraguayan counterpart. Malmierca said: "During those talks, the Paraguayan minister informed us that Paraguay, along with Chile and Colombia, had been considering the suitability of reestablishing consular and economic relations with Cuba but that it was not yet possible because there were some obstacles of a legal nature in Paraguay that required this type of decisions to be made by a collegium; assembling such a collegium required some time."

The Cuban minister recalled that for this reason he agreed with his Paraguayan counterpart to leave the issue for a while, after making it clear that there was no difficulty as far as Cuba was concerned, but no rush either. Malmierca said: "We made it clear to them, as we have with all diplomats who have approached us with similar proposals, that when a country considers the time to be right, we will analyze it. Very soon already a year will have passed since the Guadalajara summit and we have not had another meeting. We have not sought it, but an agreement has not been reached."

The Cuban minister also mentioned that during Cuban officials' visits to Paraguay, they emphasized the Cuban point of view over the establishment of a Paraguayan Embassy in Cuba and vice versa. Malmierca emphasized: "We do not deem it necessary or convenient to exert any pressure on the Paraguayan authorities in this regard."

Nevertheless, Malmierca said: "We would consider it useful if those relations did exist. We believe that this would allow relations between our nations to develop further and contacts to be much more varied, more intense; and we would welcome them at that moment. Many years, many decades have passed without diplomatic relations; in spite of this, relations between our nations have survived and, I believe, have been strengthened during these years."

The Cuban minister concluded by saying that he considers it difficult to predict when an official meeting between Cuba and Paraguay could take place, confessing that he has very little to say about our country's domestic situation. Malmierca said: "Over the past few days, for example, we have read some reports about the possibility of Stroessner's return to Paraguay and that, if he returned, he must be willing to subject himself to investigation by the courts. We do not have enough information, let alone current information, on the domestic situation in Paraguay. Nevertheless, we believe that an opening is taking place, that work is being carried out in various areas, not just political but also cultural and social, and this will gradually make it less possible to restore the dictatorial conditions that marked Stroessner's period. This is all I can say on this issue."

Aldana on Eastern Europe, Youth in Revolution

FL2603194892 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Interview with Carlos Aldana, a member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba, PCC, by Zenaida Costales; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Costales] You were an official of the Union of Young Communists [UJC] in the Revolutionary Armed Forces, and today you hold a party leadership post. This confirms that the young generation is not a replacement, but a continuation of the historic generation of the revolution. What is your opinion?

[Aldana] Well, that is a statement that would be valid without my personal case or personal example. It can be illustrated with many other examples that are not limited to the society's political leadership, but include all spheres: production, science, and culture. This continuity must also occur in those spheres. Of course, in society's political leadership, the Revolution's political leadership, this issue takes on greater weight and significance, and I think what you have said is right. We can reach the conclusion that this continuity is being expressed because of the fact that young people, young women who 15, 20, or 25 years ago took their first steps in political life in the UJC, are today in the PCC Central Committee. They hold many political posts in the country, and some of them are in the Politburo. I feel very happy about this, very proud about this, because one of the really happiest times of my life was my time in the UJC.

[Costales] Many people outside Cuba wonder why, in spite of the limitations imposed by the special period, Cuban young people have adopted a different attitude from the one adopted by the young people in Eastern Europe. They are remaining faithful to the Revolution, the Party, and Fidel. How do you explain this situation?

[Aldana] Well, in the first place, if we talk about Eastern Europe, the explanation is relatively simple. There were no revolutions there, but here there has been a revolution. That is, we are in the midst of a revolution. If we talk about the Soviet Union, we cannot say the same thing. There was a revolution there, but there is a very great difference between the original values of the revolution and the processes that occurred afterwards. There is another important difference between Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. In Eastern Europe there was some presence of the masses in terms of the force that threw the ruling communist parties out of power. In the case of Eastern Europe [as heard], the masses maintained a more or less wait-and-see attitude.

There is no way, no point of reference, that would allow us to draw a comparison between those situations and our situation. In our case, the young people, as part of the populace—I would say, as part of the working class, the most active and politicized part of our society—are the main actors in this process today. I think that people

in our country feel that this belongs to them. This is why they are upset when things do not go well. This is why they suffer because of our mistakes, our difficulties, our setbacks.

They also feel responsible to this same degree. They share the responsibility for what we do not do so well or what we neglect to do. I think that in accordance with this situation, what is in our power to do and what we should do is to try every day to make more extensive and genuine the participation of our young people in the Revolution's work and the country's political processes.

Shortages of Basic Products in Russia Noted

FL2603121892 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] The withdrawal of state control over several basic necessities is forcing the residents of Moscow to tighten their belts even more these days. Reporter Lazaro Malvares of PRENSA LATINA today visited downtown Petrovska Street. Here are his impressions.

Even though the liberalization of the prices of basic necessities has not been put into effect in all stores, thousands of citizens are trying to buy as much as they can to store. Bread and salt are sold at prices similar to those of last week, but at more than eight or nine times the prices in effect before the change in the republic's leadership.

According to Yuriy Ivanov, the director of Store 15, which is located near Red Square, milk costs 1 ruble 94 kopeks per liter. That is almost $3.20 at the official rate of exchange, and milk is only sporadically available in the stores. Meanwhile, salt, which has disappeared, costs 1 ruble 40 kopeks, approximately $2.00. Nevertheless, these and other products are being bought in large quantities by middlemen who then sell them at prices 10 times their original cost.

Moreover, difficulties in refining sugar, an increasing demand, and the destruction of interrepublican ties forged over the course of decades are among the main causes of what we could call the bitter crisis of sweets in Russia. Even though it is still some months until summer in Moscow, which is historically the period of highest sugar consumption, this vital product is absent from the main Russian stores, and its appearance is accompanied by long lines and high prices. In our visit to several private markets in Moscow today, PRENSA LATINA noted that a kilogram of sugar costs 70 rubles, equal to about $110.00 at the official rate of exchange, while it was impossible to find sugar at state-owned markets.

Food Program Donates $23 Million in Milk Products

FL2703000992 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2320 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] More than $23 million in milk products will be donated to Cuba by the UN World Food Program. The credit document was signed in Havana by Ernesto Melendez, minister president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation, and (Joaquin Von Brownwell), representative of the World Food Program.

The agreement sponsors a project through which our country will receive contributions, beginning in July and throughout a period [words indistinct] a total of 12 million tons of skim milk and 3,400 tons of butterfat to be processed in the Las Tunas lactic plant.

Isle of Youth Holds SUVP Exercise to 1 Apr

FL2603164892 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1503 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] Victory 92, the demonstration exercise for the Unified Vigilance and Protection System [SUVP], has begun on the Isle of Youth and will last until 1 April. Many activities will be held, most of which will be practical exercises aimed at strengthening vigilance and defense over the course of one week. Starting at 2030 yesterday, the details of the Victory 92 exercise were issued by means of a document that was made public at meetings of all the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution on the Isle of Youth. Union sections chosen by the labor movement will also participate in the operation. The demonstration exercise for the SUVP will end on 1 April with mass rallies in Nueva Gerona, La Fe, and La Demajagua.

'Moderate' Tornado Damages Crops, Homes

FL2703031992 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] A tornado of moderate intensity has caused serious damage to agricultural areas and houses in the Contramaestre Municipality in Santiago de Cuba Province. With winds gusting up to 52 km per hour and heavy hail, this storm caused the loss of 3,000 plantain trees and diverse crops, and affected approximately 524 houses.

The heavy rains caused the complete collapse of 286 house roofs, basically in the region known as (Lagionadas), close to the villages of Baire and (Mapu). Even though no one was killed, 200 people were relocated to the homes of family members and neighbors. A quick response by agricultural workers and the help of the town's government and people's councils enabled the recovery of 560 quintals of [word indistinct] plantains in good condition, while another 40 quintals were processed into liquid fodder.

The roofs of agriculture centers under construction in the regions of (La Pone) and Canal in the village of Baire also suffered damages. According to information released by the weather department in our municipality, the storm lasted approximately 40 minutes and heavy rain was reported. Right now, the Communist Party of Cuba, the local government, and mass organizations are making enormous efforts to repair the damages.

Tourist Flights Made Available to Citizens

FL2603220392 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2033 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] Beginning 27 March, passengers who want to travel from Varadero to Havana can do so by air, a service offered to take advantage of flights that return with Canadian tourists. These flights arrive regularly on weekends, leaving the majority of tourists at the Juan Garda Alta Gomez Airport on the blue coast; from there the planes fly practically empty to the Jose Marti Airport in Rancho Boyeros.

Various flights are available after 1800 local on Saturdays and Sundays. Seats will be made available to passengers at the interprovincial bus terminals in Varadero. A bus will provide transport to the Juan Guarda Alta Gomez Airport where passengers can purchase tickets for 12 pesos and enjoy a flight that normally lasts 20 to 25 minutes.

Canarian Delegation Sends Message of Solidarity

FL2603194992 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] Francisco Jaime Gonzalez Cejas, mayor of Granadilla in Tenerife Municipality in the Canary Islands, said this morning in a news conference that this first cultural delegation, which he heads, is the doorway for future ties that will, without doubt, unite that region with Cuba. After his meeting with reporters, Gonzalez Cejas sent a message to the people of Cuba through this news station.

[Begin Gonzalez recording] The message I would like to give you from Granadilla on Tenerife, a region that is so close, through our ancestors and even today through family ties with the Cuban people, is a message of (?solidarity), a message of fraternity, appreciation, and affection. Historically, we have felt very close to the Cuban people. I am convinced that if the people here ever went through difficulties at any given time, they are sufficiently qualified and mature to overcome any type of situation. I wish you the best from the south of Tenerife in the Canary Islands. [end recording]

Among the activities scheduled by this delegation from Tenerife Municipality is a visit to Melena del Sur, where they will form the organizing committee for the Cuban-Canarian Society. The delegation will participate in a mass held in the style of the islands which will be celebrated at the Havana Cathedral on 28 March at 2030. The cultural delegation, sponsored by the Granadilla city council, will remain in Cuba until 1 April and will give several presentations, according to Tarzicio Vinas, president of the La Palma or Isla Bonita organization of the Canary Islands. The population in Cuba of Canarians, or "Islanders" as they are frequently called, is 60,000; their descendants add up to 600,000.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Spanish Agency

FL2603145392 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] A cooperation agreement for the restoration of the San Francisco de Asis Convent in Habana Vieja was signed by representatives of Cuba and Spain in the presence of Minister of Culture Armando Hart Davalos. The office of city historian, represented by Eusebio Leal, and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation, represented by Spanish Ambassador to Cuba Gumersindo Rico, signed the agreement. The agreement indicates that both institutions have decided to cooperate in restoring the convent and, once it is finished, dedicate the building to the Music Academy of Havana.

The Spanish ambassador stressed the cultural and spiritual nature of relations between both countries. He expressed hope that this agreement could be the beginning of other similar agreements. For his part, Eusebio Leal thanked them for signing the agreement, which he characterized as an act of extreme importance in the history of the restoration of Habana Vieja.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Human Rights Group Advises OAS Haiti Mission

FL2603183992 Bridgetown CANA in English 1715 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, March 26, CANA—Caribbean Rights, a regional human rights watchdog, has advised the chairman of the impending international "civil mission" to Haiti to be on guard against "fundamental principles being sacrificed on the altar of political expediency."

The advice is contained in a letter to Trinidadian diplomat, Dr. Edwin Carrington, who has been named to lead an advanced 20-member civilian mission of the Organisation of American States (OAS) to the French-speaking Caribbean nation.

The mission is linked to the terms of an agreement brokered last February 23 in Washington for the return of constitutional government in Haiti, with exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide back as head of state.

In its letter to Carrington, copied to the secretary general of both the OAS and the Caricom secretariat, the Barbados-based regional human rights network welcomed his choice to lead the proposed civilian mission.

But it underscored its own disappointment over what it said was the apparent inaction of Caricom governments and the handling of the Haitian crisis by the OAS which, it claims, has shown much "weakness in resisting the pressures of powerful governments." Caribbean Rights deplored as further "disgusting abuse of power" the Haitian military and its allies' "act of intimidation" on March 18, when they showed up with guns on display in the chamber of Haiti's Parliament. This "threat of the

guns" in the chamber, as descibed by Haitian human rights activists to Caribbean Rights, prevented the Parliament from having a quorum to ratify the OAS-influenced "peace plan" of February 23.

Caribbean Rights has told Carrington of its own previously expressed reservations against both interim President Joseph Nerette and Prime Minister John Jacques Honorat who, it said, "seem determined to pursue their own agendas" to prevent the return to Haiti of President Aristide.

Grenada: Cuba Meets Conditions for Relations

FL2603204992 Bridgetown CANA in English 2041 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, March 26, CANA—Grenada announced Thursday that Cuba had met its conditions for a normalization of diplomatic relations, strained since the 1983 U.S. invasion that ended four and a half years of Marxist rule here. Cuba had close ties with the Grenada revolution under the late Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and gave generous aid to the island, including the construction of the point Salines International Airport. Havana, however, condemned the murder of Bishop in a 1983 coup and distanced itself from the hardliners who briefly took over the government until they were ousted in the U.S. military action.

Haiti

Theodore Address Warns of National 'Exhaustion'

FL2703013092 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 2130 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Address by Rene Theodore, Haitian prime minister-designate, in Port-au-Prince on 26 March; in Creole—recorded]

[Text] Citizens: Our country is backed into a corner. Bad signs are already attacking our body and soul. Hunger is hitting poor people. Workers are unemployed. All manufacturers and businessmen are basically going bankrupt. The embargo is choking the country's economy. All the countries in the world have broken off their relations with the provisional government. The history unfolding before our eyes places me in a difficult situation. The position forces me to take the responsibility to address all citizens on these difficult times that we are facing together. This is a time for major decisions.

Every day that goes by, the country is destroyed even more. Every day that goes by, the country's reserves diminish. The marginal reserves, the slim national resources that could help our economy rebound have run out. We are losing the resources to recommence our development in our own way, as sovereign people. The public sector deficit is severe. The provisional government is earning money with no consideration. Money is becoming worthless. Existence has become more expensive and will continue to be more expensive.

What are the difficulties awaiting the government to come? Ruin is threatening Haiti. The time has come for us to say enough. Enough for poor people who are becoming poorer. Enough for the private sector, the basis of the country's development, that is being destroyed. Enough for the institutions that are losing their prestige. Enough for the state that is under a great burden. Enough for the ancestors who did not work for that. Enough for the children who do not deserve this and who will judge you tomorrow.

What patriotic policy, what nationalistic policy, what policy of pride can be satisfied in seeing factories closing their doors, businesses going bankrupt, money transactions being curtailed, workers losing their jobs, peasants eating the last reserves of seeds? Hunger, sickness are striking most people. Children are going to school afraid. Children are dying from sickness without any help. Poisoned fuel is putting the population's health in danger.

I am shouldering the responsibility to talk to you. All sectors of the population, all sectors involved in the country's economy are tumbling. Great hope is starting to die. Haiti is passing away.

Those who, despite all of this, are raising the flag of victory are, in fact, raising the flag of thoughtlessness. It is not yet the flag of pride. What kind of nationalism drives a group, which is only defending its own interests, to continue to hold the country hostage and pretend to lead the country in a suicidal enterprise? They say nationalism. Who in this country can teach Rene Theodore the meaning of nationalism? I, Rene Theodore. I, Maribaho negro. Under the nationalist flag, they say that the negotiated solution is a foreign affair. The agreement is a white people's deal, is a Washington deal.

The truth, the truth...[pauses] If there is one person in this country who has started putting his mind and efforts to move the OAS face-to-face with Haiti so that the conflict becomes a Haitian-Haitian one, it is I, Rene Theodore. Also, if there was one person who did not spare critics and warnings from 7 February 1991 until the 30 September coup, so that this painful event did not occur in Haiti and so that the people's hope did not become lost, it is I, it is I again, Rene Theodore.

I congratulate myself and all the other political leaders who worked together to put the OAS in the role of witness and facilitator in the crisis. Efforts were made for the country so it would not reach such a catastrophe.

The first time I was due to go to Washington, I refused. The second time, I went. The catastrophe was too grave for me to continue sitting around. On that same occasion, the negotiations that had started in October 1991, with the support and participation of the executive, succeeded in signing an agreement in Washington between Haitian parties. The OAS was a facilitator and simple witness.

Therefore, I will respect this agreement which defines in advance that this government is to be in charge, as a

consensus government, among Haitians, as I have always wished. I will respect the agreement within the requirements which are asked of me. In this same way, the people who signed it must respect its conditions. We must stop seeing that doing politics is to stab one in the back. In order to extricate the country from its present situation, the Haitian people in charge must learn to keep their word.

Here are my words and I will respect them:

A Rene Theodore government will be a consensus government. That means that all of society must take an interest in it. In that sense, I have already contacted, and I will keep in touch with, different political parties, with different sectors of the national life, so that they share their views, their hope, their interests, shoulder their own responsibilities, and offer their participation. Rene Theodore's government is not a lavalas [avalanche] government. It is not a communist government. There will be a place for all competent, honest, responsible citizens who want to work for the country. That is also a consensus. That is also included in the agreement.

In the same faithfulness for Haiti's national interests, we consider that our country is a full member of the international community and has the right to cooperation, has the right to solidarity. That is how you should understand the OAS mission, which is part of the agreement. Many people are mistaken about the meaning of the OAS mission. Numerous people see another foreign occupation. Other people believe that white people will control the public administration. It is not at all like that. Rene Theodore will have never agreed with something like that. The OAS mission is a technical assistance mission to offer training which will help strengthen the national institutions, to work with the government in respect of the country's sovereignty, in respect for the state's and government's authority. It is a mission for observing human rights. The OAS agreement is an international agreement. And as any international agreement, whatever it includes will be publicly discussed in depth. I will present this agreement before the Haitian Parliament, just as provided for in the Constitution for the necessary consideration.

Great debates are being held regarding the sovereignty, the Army's problem as an institution as it relates to political stability and public safety. With bad faith, several people make believe that there is a plot against the Army with the OAS mission. Those who are saying this know that it is not right. The problem of the military institution is seen in terms of professionalism, meaning, modernization. Since the grave events which shook this Army during the past five years, especially June 1988, September 1988, April 1989, March 1990, the military people in charge think and advocate the professionalism of the Army. The OAS mission will contribute to this professionalism. Of course, the plan for professionalism depends on our military specialists together with Haiti's public authorities. However, every sector in society is interested in a result that establishes an atmosphere of trust and fellowship among civilians and the military. For that matter, the Army's slogan is: "Army For Development."

Questions are asked: What economic policy will Rene Theodore choose? Will he come to destroy? The economic policy of a consensus government cannot be anything other than the outcome of a compromise and heads put together that give the consensus.

The first point of the economic consensus is jobs. The first need of the Haitian people is to work in the city as well as in the countryside. It is in the industrial, agricultural, and craft production sectors where there is a need for good quality to compete in Haiti as well as abroad. I am committing myself to the search to create an atmosphere of political stability, an economic stability, a judicial environment that guarantees the establishment and the development of industrial, agricultural, and craft firms and a rational commercial development throughout the country. We are encouraging financing in order to modernize Haiti's economy. The development of businesses will bring about the wealth of the country. That is what will justify and free the public administration.

In building the economy, the state will, step by step, confront education, health, and public hygiene; and wipe out misery, poverty, and begging. It is a development of dignity that all civilian and military citizens could enjoy. We have not come to destroy, but to build. We want a better life for everyone. The country's economic development will progress in all geographic zones in the country with special efforts and encouragement to establish the necessary essentials in all the provinces as well as in the capital. On this matter, all development projects will be discussed in consultations with the senators and the deputies of each zone. The population will be better prepared to participate, to protect, and to take advantage of all development plans. I propose a generation contract to reject misery, a generation contract for development and modernization. That is my agreement with the Haitian people.

I must warn without threatening at the same time. It is my duty to warn. The time has come for the small group of citizens who are attempting to hold the country hostage, who are using mighty sentences to hide sins; I am telling them to stop undermining themselves and the country. I am warning them. The corner we are backed into today does not allow time for delay. The country is exhausted. The political organizations do not agree. The socioprofessional organizations say that is enough. The economic sectors that want development say enough. I, Rene Theodore, and all the people with me are warning you. Gentlemen: Let the country go. Stop hindering the country. I am asking the Army to shoulder its responsibilities. I am asking the legislators to be courageous: Bear your responsibilities. I am asking the provisional government to reason with itself. Leave a free rein for Haiti to take the road of normalization through the only negotiated solution that the people are calling for. Thank you.

[Announcer] We point out for our listeners that this was a paid announcement.

Government Dismisses Remarks

FL2703131192 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Haitian Prime Minister-designate Rene Theodore has called on the country's military government to resign. He said in a radio and television address that all sectors of Haitian society think it is time for the provisional government to leave office. Mr. Theodore warned that the country would suffer dangerous consequences if the military leaders cling to power. He has also called on parliamentarians to continue the process of ratifying the Organization of American States accord, which would return President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and make Mr. Theodore prime minister.

Meanwhile, the Haitian provisional government's representative in the United States (?Yvon Bayard) had no official reaction to Mr. Theodore's words. On a personal basis, Mr. (Bayard) told the Voice of America that he dismisses the prime minister's remarks. He calls Mr. Theodore, in his words, the kind of politician who will do anything to get into power.

Court 'Has Week' To Rule on Executive Request

FL2603213692 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] Yesterday, the Supreme Court began deliberating the executive's request that the legislative power defer ratification proceedings on the agreement until a decision is made by the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court judges, who began on 25 March to study the executive's request, will have to make a decision in the coming days. The Court has a week to settle the difference.

Canadian Ambassador Meets With Medard on 25 Mar

FL2603225292 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Excerpts] On 25 March, Parliamentary Cohesion Alliance senators met with their National Front for Change and Democracy, FNCD, colleagues at the Parliament. The Parliamentary Cohesion Alliance regroups the majority of those who decided to walk out of the session on 18 March, thereby invalidating the quorum. These parliamentarians are also opposed to a new convening of the National Assembly by President Dejean Belizaire. The FNCD members are in favor of the agreement. The parliamentarians refused to make any statements after the meeting yesterday between these two antagonistic groups. However, it is rumored in the halls of the Parliament that there may be a possible formation of a bicameral committee to attempt to establish a consensus within the Parliament.

Also on 25 March, Canadian Ambassador Bernard Dussault visited the Chamber of Deputies and spoke with President of the Chamber Alexandre Medard. After his visit, the Canadian ambassador stated that he hoped that the crisis would be solved as soon as possible. Rothschild Francois reports:

[Begin Rothschild recording] There may be a compromise among the parliamentarians regarding the Washington agreement. The idea is being pursued at the Senate of the Republic. [passage omitted] This week the leader of the Cohesion Alliance, Senator Larosiliere, asked for several changes in the agreement. [passage omitted] Several deputies also favor such a meeting at the Lower Chamber. [passage omitted]

Furthermore, President of the Chamber Alexandre Medard met yesterday with Canadian Ambassador Bernard Dussault. The diplomat stated that he came to be briefed on the situation following his absence from the country. The Canadian ambassador thinks that the crisis has lasted too long. Bernard Dussault also states that the question of the agreement concerns Haitians. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Mondestin on Government Communique on Bribes

FL2603212092 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] Senator Rony Mondestin thinks the Ministry of Information communique is invalid because it is the provisional government that is providing the money to hinder the Parliament's work; whereas the entire country is being suffocated by an embargo and there is not even the money to pay the state employees this month.

[Begin Mondestin recording] I believe this communique is erroneous. It is baseless because the executive is not at all in a position to make this statement as it is the executive who has given the money although...[pauses] it should be pointed out that there is no money to pay state employees this month. However, they are dividing the country with a small clan of Parliament members who—as they personally said in a news conference—are not enduring an embargo. Indeed, they are not suffering from the embargo because they have other sources of income besides their salaries. They cannot be feeling the embargo. So, they do not have problems with the embargo. So, the executive's communique is null and void. It does not make sense. It is a ridiculous justification. [end recording]

El Salvador

Pacas Reports to Deputies on ONUSAL Ties

PA2603140392 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 25 Mar 92 p 29

[Text] Foreign Minister Manuel Pacas Castro reported to deputies of both commissions at the Legislative Assembly that relations between the Salvadoran Government and ONUSAL [UN Observers for El Salvador] are open and frank.

The Assembly had requested Pacas Castro appear before the deputies to report on an incident that occurred last week when ONUSAL Human Rights Adviser Rodolfo Mattarollo was not allowed to lecture the deputies because the Foreign Ministry had allegedly ordered him to leave the country.

The foreign minister reaffirmed that neither he nor the foreign ministry had anything to do with this incident and that he was not even in the country when it took place. He said Mattarollo's rejection was a confidential matter currently being discussed by the government with ONUSAL.

He explained procedures to accredit ONUSAL members in the country to enable them to verify the compliance of the peace agreements signed by the government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front on 16 January 1992.

Pacas Castro said that, up to now, the government has granted 442 entry visas to ONUSAL diplomats, officials, and special personnel, which authorize them to work in the country.

In regard to Mattarollo, the foreign minister said the government does object to him because of his partiality in the process. Later on, he invoked the right to confidentiality on this case and said it was being discussed with ONUSAL. During the question period, opposition deputies criticized the foreign minister's contradictory statements and expressed their concern because the case lacked credibility.

ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] Deputy Alberto Carranza said the Mattarollo case was one of diplomatic ethics and did not indicate that ONUSAL's work was being jeopardized because its officials continued to move about the country in total freedom. ARENA Deputy Gerardo Suvillaga said he believed the foreign minister had answered all questions satisfactorily.

Prior to the ARENA deputies' statements, Democratic Convergence Deputies Juan Jose Martell and Silvia Barrientos; Christian Democratic Party Deputies Roberto Viera, Ludovico Samayoa, and Lazo Espinal; and Nationalist Democratic Union Deputy Mario Aguinada Carranza expressed their concern for the "partiality" argument used by the government to veto the ONUSAL official because they believe it could prompt future uncertainty in the diplomatic mission.

Civilian Police Coordinator on New Academy

PA2703013692 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Report by Balmore Parada]

[Text] The new National Civilian Police, PNC, will be installed at Bracamonte Battalion Headquarters in Comalapa and at the police school known as Cetipol [Police Instruction Center].

The announcement was made by PNC Coordinator Ernesto Arbizu Mata. He also confirmed that the first contingent will consist of 300 policemen, who will take their admission tests in April, as established in the peace agreements. The PNC operational funds will be obtained through the UN Development Program. Here is PNC Coordinator Arbizu Mata:

[Begin recording] [Arbizu Mata] We are preparing the facilities in order to open the academy. We are working on that.

[Parada] Could you tell us where?

[Arbizu Mata] One of the initial sites will be the Cetipol. Although it is a small area, it will accommodate the first members of the national academy. It is located in front of Santa Tecla Park. Another possible site will be Bracamonte Battalion Headquarters.

[Parada] How many policemen will be in the first group?

[Arbizu Mata] Approximately 300, according to the agreements. [end recording]

Arbizu Mata's statement confirmed that the PNC, which will replace the current National Police, already has facilities to begin its work. For now, the next goal will be graduating the first contingent in October.

FMLN Station Views U.S. Extradition Request

PA2603225792 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1200 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Station editorial]

[Text] The extradition request is inadmissible. We do think the U.S. State Department's search for justice is understandable in the case of the three U.S. military advisers who were killed when their helicopter was downed over a conflict zone in El Salvador last year.

Today U.S. officials have requested the extradition of the two former FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] guerrillas who have been charged with murdering the three U.S. military advisers. The acceptance of this request would violate our laws and national sovereignty. That is not all. In the new Salvadoran context, extraditing the two Salvadorans to U.S. courts would go directly against the observance of the peace agreements.

The extradition request is an unfortunate signal sent by the U.S. administration to El Salvador. It is a signal that contradicts peace because it causes more national friction. It also questions the U.S. Government's true willingness to contribute to the reconstruction of El Salvador, including its judicial system, which is still corrupt, nonoperative, and complies with the powers originating from the Salvadoran barracks.

The Americans have expressed their mistrust of the judicial system, the same judicial system with which they coexisted and that they capriciously used during the 12 years of the armed conflict. The U.S. Administration did not protest against the inefficiency of this same judicial system when the Jesuit priests' murder trial ended without the masterminds and their accomplices having received justice.

Because of this, the extradition request made by the U.S. State Department is inadmissible. The two former FMLN guerrillas will be tried in El Salvador. No one, not even the U.S. Government, will be able to erase from history the FMLN's contribution to end, once and for all, the rampant impunity the Americans supported and promoted in El Salvador.

Government Effort To Increase Police Discussed

PA2703124392 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 1200 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] The news of the day has been that the National Police dismantled a band of assailants in the eastern part of the country. The members of the band turned out to be four Army soldiers and two civilians.

It is not unusual for soldiers to form criminal bands or to use large caliber weapons belonging to Alfredo Cristiani's Army to carry out their crimes. This is a well-known and frequently denounced situation. The victims of these bands—the Quezaltepeque refuse collector, for example—have even reported the assailants' garrison, detachment, or brigade. The Armed Forces, the government, and the media that caters to them, of course, are the ones who have always played dumb or looked the other way when these events occur.

During the past two months, the government has launched a full-fledged media campaign focused on the unprecedented crime wave in the country. The campaign stressed that the crime wave was caused by the lack of adequate Army surveillance because the soldiers had been forced to remain in their barracks.

The country quickly realized the campaign's objectives were dubious. The campaign attempted to invent justifications so that the murderous National Guard and Finance Police would not be dissolved and to allow soldiers to move about the cities freely and violate the agreements reached with the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front in Chapultepec, Mexico.

The surprising thing about the news of the day is the National Police's effectiveness. The police dismantled the criminal band only a few days after Cristiani announced an increase of policemen in the corps and the installation of new police garrisons in different parts of the country. The effective police action is thus another ill-intended ploy by the government to continue to violate the agreements.

Honest citizens are happy when criminals are arrested, but they are also concerned when they notice ill-intended schemes, and they trust the government will effectively comply with the peace agreements.

Station Commentary Says Copaz Work 'Failed'

PA2703001692 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Copaz [National Commission for the Consolidation of Peace] is evaluating the work carried out two months after the implementation of the peace agreements. Copaz was created to verify and to follow up on the peace agreement that ended the war. It began an evaluation process on 25 March to review what has been done so far. Copaz has failed to fully carry out its job because it has yet to achieve a consensus on appointing the appropriate people to the National Civilian Police Directorate, and it has delayed the installation of a socioeconomic forum. Furthermore, and this is the most dangerous thing, all those who obstruct Copaz' work are responsible for the delay in implementing the agreements in accordance with its schedule.

The question is: Who obstructs Copaz' work? Is there perhaps a lack of efficiency among those who comprise it? Politicians have an enormous responsibility: They must implement peace agreements that, in fact, strengthen civilian society. It has been said many times that the war lasted 11 years because political options were exhausted, but they have been restored. Those options are again possible, and the Copaz members know it. Copaz needs the facilities and budget to operate, and it has no administrative personnel. However, all this can be overcome. All we need is more dedication among the parties' representatives.

Copaz should not repeat the conduct of certain deputies, who many times go to the Assembly to take a nap and limit their participation to raising their hands because those are the orders they receive. Politicians in the new El Salvador must be people who study projects and present proposals to build a better democracy. The time when posts were gained based on one's economic situation is about to end. It is deplorable that many Copaz members stick to their positions without even taking into consideration what was discussed. Their conduct undermines whatever good intentions other members may have.

There is a lot to say about Copaz' role, given its importance to the country's destiny. Today we simply tell the members to work because the nation demands it.

Guatemala

'Powerful' Bomb Explosion at University Reported

PA2603232092 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] A terrorist bomb exploded on the evening of 25 March in a building of the University of San Carlos in Zone 12. There were no casualties, but there was considerable structural damage. The explosion occurred at 2130 in the third floor of the 10-story building of the School of Chemical Sciences and Pharmacy. Professors and students of that school and some workers were leaving the building when the bomb exploded.

The device was described as powerful by a document published on 26 March by the national university condemning the attack. The explosion shattered numerous glasses and damaged several doors of that building. In its document repudiating this action, the University of San Carlos voiced great concern over this new terrorist attack and made public its vigorous rejection of the use of such criminal practices.

In January, a bomb exploded at the headquarters of the Association of University Students, AEU. AEU Secretary General Otto Peralta accused the Army for this attack, and the Army sued him but later decided to withdraw the lawsuit. Peralta commented on this new attack on student buildings:

[Begin recording] [Peralta] This bomb is another attack of a repressive campaign against the university and popular organizations. As you know, since early this year the university has been the target of a number of attacks and violent actions, murders, and threats. This incident joins the chain of repressive actions against the university.

The primary aim is to silence the voice of the university. If they are not the culprits, we demand the Army and government clarify this and that they condemn and convict those responsible for these attacks. We demand this, and want them to do something about these kind of actions.

It is regrettable that there have been a number of violent actions against the university and not even one has been resolved. This shows evidently that there is no willingness to solve these kind of attacks.

[Unidentified reporter] What time did this happen?

[Peralta] It occurred at about 2145, according to the schools' security guards near the AEU office.

[Reporter] Did they report any suspicious people around the area?

[Peralta] They reported seeing some people in the area at that time that fled through the dark areas of the university, but they were unable to identify anyone because they immediately fled. Unfortunately, the university lacks an internal security force capable of capturing these people immediately. They reported seeing certain individuals but do not know who they were. [end recording]

Meanwhile, the authorities of the University of San Carlos held a news conference on 25 March [date as heard] at the Annex Room of the Superior University Council to establish their position on this attack. The following attended: Dr. Quesada, university secretary general; Mario Rolando Torres, personal adviser to the rector; Victor Alvarez, adviser to the Rector's Office; and Ana Alvarado, chief of the Publicity Office. She opened the conference:

[Begin recording] [Alvarado] All we know, as has been reported, is that this involves groups that oppose the university's contributions to the discussion of the country's problems.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Alvarado] The device caused considerable damage to the facilities of Building T-10. The estimated damage as of this moment amounts to 20,000 quetzales. The damage mainly consists of shattered glass and lamps, destruction of iron gates, and laboratory equipment in the third floor of the building.

[Unidentified speaker] The security guards could not catch anyone involved in this attack because of the time of the explosion and the size of the university campus. We repudiate this kind of intimidation that obviously seeks to neutralize the university's role in society. We urge the various segments of Guatemalan society to also repudiate this attack. We also urge them to continue coordinating efforts with us to democratize and to bring peace to our country.

We have no major details on this incident. We can report that we drafted a document to the government of the Republic requesting an investigation and voicing our hope that there will be an end to the atmosphere of uncertainty and impunity that prevails in Guatemala. [end recording]

GAM Leader Charges Army With Harassment

PA2703010192 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] The Mutual Support Group [GAM] said on 26 March that the Government and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] have reached only minimal agreements on human rights, two years after the peace process began in Oslo, Norway. GAM said the chief obstacles to reaching agreements are the fact that the Civilian Self-Defense Patrols [PAC] have not been dismantled, the failure to enforce international law on the recognition of captured fighters, and the delay

in installing an international inquiry commission on people who have disappeared. A GAM leader said it is known for certain that there are 146 clandestine cemeteries in different parts of the country.

[Begin recording of unidentified GAM leader] The clandestine cemeteries are clear evidence that the practices of the past have not ended. They reflect the impunity with which PAC operates, under the command of and sponsored by the Army. Last October, our group reported the existence of clandestine cemeteries in Tunaja Canton, Metacualpa Municipality, and in Chinhuicha, Chichicastenango Municipality. To date, the Attorney General's Office has not issued permits to exhume the bodies. In all, 56 bodies may be found there. [seven-second break in reception]...the existence of many cemeteries. Many Guatemalans who were arrested and are missing may be found in mass graves.

We also want to denounce the harassment of the residents of Tunaja, Chupol, El Quiche Department, where military communities are located. Military commissioner Mariano Morente Lopez and Army personnel continue to threaten fellow GAM members Florencio Pol Garcia and Luisa Ruiz. The military personnel offered 1,000 quetzals for the murder of our GAM comrades. On 11 March, 46 soldiers led by the lieutenant of the Zacualpa Military Detachment were looking for the two GAM members. They came into the town stating they were going to kidnap and kill them. For that reason, we hold El Quiche's 20th Military Zone personnel responsible for the lives of our comrades.

We are asking President Jorge Serrrano Elias and National Defense Minister General Jose Domingo Garcia to stop the acts of intimidation and human rights violations. [end recording]

Honduras

Callejas Responds to Ortega Offer on ICJ Suit

PA2603212392 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 26 Mar 92 p 3

[Text] On 25 March, President Rafael Leonardo Callejas sent a letter to former Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega acknowledging the position taken by the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) supporting the withdrawal of Nicaragua's suit against Honduras at the International Court of Justice [ICJ].

Callejas pointed out that he is "very pleased" with the FSLN's decision to support the withdrawal of the suit filed in July 1986.

President Callejas announced he sent a letter to former President Daniel Ortega. Callejas pointed out that this decision is the result of efforts by the Foreign Ministry; Mario Maldonado, Honduran ambassador to Nicaragua; and the missions of the National Congress that have visited Nicaragua.

"I am very pleased that Daniel Ortega, who signed the agreement, is willing to support the legal initiative of President Violeta Chamorro to withdraw the suit," he said. Callejas described the action as a "success" for both countries.

Referring to Salvadoran newspaper reports that claim El Salvador owns the disputed territory, the president said "The media is free in El Salvador as it is here," but both countries will accept in "good faith" the verdict of the ICJ.

Concerning a meeting between the Advisory Group of the World Bank in Washington, the president said his government is hoping to obtain financing in easy terms or donations for approximately $30 million to $50 million.

* Discua Elvir's Plan To Reform Armed Forces

92CA0118A Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 24 Feb 92 p 3

[Article by staff writer Armando Villanueva]

[Text] As has been reported, the present structure of the armed forces will be subjected to a total transformation, in view of the political changes being observed in the world, as well as the desire to anticipate future pressures that could force those changes through coercive means.

The elimination of the military institution's headquarters is one accomplishment in this context; as is that of the Armed Forces Higher Council (Consuffaa).

Similarly, the major military command structure will be turned over to the minister of defense and public security who, like the other state secretaries, will be appointed by the president of the Republic, but at the armed forces' proposal.

The Consuffaa will be replaced by an agency to be called the National Defense Council (CDN). This entity will be comprised of the minister of defense, two vice ministers of defense, the joint chief of staff, those responsible for the four branches, the inspector general, and the director of a new corps consisting of the directors of the military academies.

The foregoing means that the CDN will be made up of approximately 10 or 12 officers of the highest rank; unlike the present Consuffaa, which is comprised of some 62 officers, including generals, colonels, and lieutenant colonels.

Police Force To be Increased 40 Percent

Perhaps one of the most significant features of the new military structure, the changes in which will be submitted to the National Congress for approval within the next few weeks, is the separation of the police from the other military branches.

The National Police will come under the control and supervision of the vice minister of defense and public order (VDOP); and neither its commanders nor its agents will have any connection with the other branches.

At attempt is being made to achieve an even balance between the Army and police forces. In this case, it is estimated that there is currently a 25 percent police force, with the rest in the other forces. However, a new military plan is intended to raise the number of policemen to 40 percent, leaving the rest at 60 percent.

Nevertheless, it is believed that, to attain the latter goal, a series of preliminary steps will have to be taken, because the high command does not think that the border surveillance near the neighboring countries and on coasts can be neglected either, with the forces engaged solely in combating crime.

Moreover, they do not think that crime will be fought by having many policemen taking to the streets, so long there is a failure to eradicate the factors contributing to its generation, such as unemployment, hunger, and illiteracy.

Historic Landmark for the Military Institution's Future

The changes being promoted by the military high command are regarded as a historic landmark for the military institution's future and for the country itself. Hence, their harbingers, particularly Division General Luis Alonso Discua Elvir, have not ceased to jeopardize their own stability as heads of the armed forces.

An example of this is the emergence, last week, of the so-called General Jose Trinidad Cabanas Revolutionary Movement, whose members, the young officers, oppose both the elimination of the Consuffaa and that of the Armed Forces Headquarters.

And the fact is that, although that situation is occurring through legislative channels, all those young officers regard their ambitions to hold the highest military rank some day as thwarted. And, concurrently, they fear that they will never reach the Defense Ministry without the approval of the party in power, which would virtually politicize the armed institution.

Nevertheless, military analysts are hailing the measures promoted by Discua Elvir, because they consider Honduras to be the only country with extremely autonomous armed forces. According to these analysts, the armed forces' power exceeds that of the civilian establishment.

Furthermore, the existence of an agency such as the Consuffaa, which serves the purpose of a legislative branch within the armed forces, is questioned.

One source who was queried remarked: "Some day the armed forces will have to be cut, whether they like it or not; and it's better for them to start doing so now, on their own initiative, rather than under pressure."

* CODEH Reports Human Rights Offenses 1988-91

92CA0118B Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 20 Jan 92 p 25

[Text] According to the Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in Honduras (CODEH), from January 1988 to July 1991, 13 forced disappearances, 322 extrajudicial executions, 470 cases of torture, and 2,058 illegal detentions were recorded.

The report by the CODEH was read by its attorney in San Pedro Sula, Marcelino Martinez, during a demonstration at El Progreso, in Yoro, commemorating the fourth anniversary of the murders of Miguel Angel Pavon and Moises Landaverde. It states that, for three and a half years, more than one person per day was a victim of the military and police authorities, creating a situation marked by general insecurity and institutional weakness.

The CODEH adds: "The present government's commitment to safeguard and respect human rights has failed when confronted with the military power, the weakness of the judicial branch, and the acquiescence of the legislative and executive branches."

It questions the fact that the members of the Armed Forces "have created their own judicial system, which prevents harmed civilians from accusing members of the military who have committed offenses. And it leaves the jurisdictional action to military judges who, because they belong to the military institution and are subordinate to their superiors, do not perform with the independence of a judge. Consequently, they cause crimes to be left without the fitting punishment."

To put an end to impunity in Honduras, the CODEH demands the ratification of the conventions and treaties to protect human rights, and the approval and ratification of the draft American convention on forced disappearance of persons.

It also demands the inclusion of incrimination for forced disappearance as an autonomous crime, and the formation of an investigating committee with sufficient power, and with the support of international agencies protecting human rights, to solve the forced disappearances, political assassinations, and other rights violations.

* Further Reporting on Abuses

92CA0118C Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 13 Feb 92 p 22

[Article by staff writer Octavio Carvajal]

[Text] During 1990 there were 85 homicides in the country, 75 of which presumably were committed by members of the armed institution; whereas, from January to September 1991, the armed forces committed 453 violations of the civil rights of persons, out of a total of 593 charges.

This is revealed by two statistical charts submitted to EL HERALDO by the Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in Honduras (CODEH), which detail the charges brought by the population against members of the military institution.

357 Illegal Detentions

According to the CODEH, during 1990 there were 357 illegal detentions of individuals. Of that number, 348 were committed by the armed forces; one, by the "External Military Organization" (United States troops); seven, by the civilian government; and the rest, by an unrecognized institution.

It adds that, during that year, there were 85 charges of homicides through abuse of authority and suspicious homicides, 75 of which were assumed to have been committed by members of the armed forces.

Moreover, the CODEH claims that there were five political assassinations: one committed by the armed institution; one, by the government; and three, by unidentified persons.

During those 12 months the military killed one criminal, and four were executed by unidentified men. There were 124 attacks against persons, 83 of which were committed by the military, according to the report.

The document states that, out of 96 cases reported, 92 citizens were tortured by the armed forces; clearly specifying that there were no forced disappearances of persons. Nevertheless, the government committed the offense of not respecting judicial guarantees on 1,273 occasions; whereas the military apparatus did so on 102 occasions.

Charges During 9 Months of 1991

Furthermore, the CODEH report (for January to September 1991) notes that 60 homicides were instigated by abuse of authority and other types of execution. The document containing the charge stresses that the armed forces committed 41 such offenses.

It adds that there were five political assassinations: one committed by the military; two, by a clandestine organization; and two, by unidentified persons. Attacks against citizens numbered 105, but 67 of them were presumed to be the work of members of the armed institution.

The CODEH claims that, of 119 persons subjected to ignominious treatment, 61 were subjected to torture in the military institutions. There were 500 illegal detentions, in 464 of which the military institution participated.

The CODEH received a total of 593 complaints of violation of the civil rights of persons. It indicates that, of that number, 452 were committed by members of the armed forces; 123, by President Rafael Callejas' government; 17, by unrecognized persons; and one, by a clandestine organization.

Those Responsible for Violations (July to September 1991)

Armed forces: 452; clandestine organization: one; unrecognized perpetrator: 17; civilian government: 123.

Nicaragua

UNO Accuses Presidency of Siding With FSLN

PA2603135592 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Communique issued by the National Opposition Union's National Political Council in Managua on 24 March]

[Text] The UNO [National Opposition Union] party has not appointed a representative to the meeting with donor nations to be held in the U.S. capital. Consequently, it has issued the following communique:

UNO's National Political Council addresses the Nicaraguan people and the international community to state as follows:

1. The UNO's appeal to the executive branch in its message on the second anniversary of its coming into power in February 1990,to resume the dialogue among our parties and the presidency based upon the agreed agenda, has not been answered. Moreover, the government's alliance with the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] has been broadened and consolidated.

2. As a result, the presidency included an FSLN-appointed representative in the mission sent to Washington to deal with international cooperation. The government did not ask the UNO to appoint a representative to join the government delegation. It arbitrarily appointed a deputy who does not officially represent our political alliance.

3. The president's attitude is a matter of serious concern to us, as she ignores and does not respect the constitutional powers of the legislative branch. This was evidenced during the recent appearance of the state ministers before the Legislative Assembly and by the publication of Law 133, partially vetoed by the president of the Republic. Likewise, we charge the executive branch with undue meddling in the legislative branch, aimed at disbanding the UNO wing to benefit FSLN interests and against the fulfillment of the government's national salvation program. We hereby express our total support for our parties' representatives in the Legislative Assembly, in their parliamentary struggle to instill a state of law and a true democracy.

4. We also accuse the FSLN of two-faced politics. Its leaders on one side promote political instability and social disorder by taking over companies, illegal strikes, anarchy in the countryside and in the city streets. On the

other side, they make rhetorical statements to international institutions about national reconciliation and their support of the government's economic program.

5. We accuse the executive branch of a passive and complacent attitude in light of these regrettable incidents. Even more regrettable is the fact that under these circumstances, the highest government authorities leave the nation leaderless, with no one with capacity and constitutional responsibility to face the nation's serious problems.

6. To conclude, we reiterate our firm conviction that the only way to avoid the worsening and violent outcome of the economic, social, and political crisis that oppresses the Nicaraguan people is to fulfill the true national commitment by all the nation's political and social sectors—over and above the anarchistic groups—as set out in Article 1 of UNO's government program.

[Issued] Managua, 24 March 1992.
[Signed] UNO National Political Council

UNO Leader Sees Chamorro-FSLN 'Dictatorship'

PA2603163292 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] The official government delegation to the meeting of donor countries under way in Washington does not represent the Nicaraguan people, according to Wilfredo Navarro, coordinator of the National Opposition Union [UNO]. Navarro said lately that the UNO would appear to be in the opposition, while the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] is becoming President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro's ally. Here is Navarro:

[Begin recording] [Navarro] It seems this government, like the past government, feels its primary function is to beg for alms. In this case, the trip to beg for alms is being made in the company of Daniel Ortega, the person primarily responsible for the disaster in the country's economy over the past decade, the person mainly responsible for the acts of vandalism and terrorism that are currently taking place in the country. The fact that this involves Daniel Ortega, the top representative of terrorism here in Nicaragua, again demonstrates that UNO leaders are right in saying there has been a Kupia-Kumi-style political agreement [reference to an 1842 interparty agreement] and a joint government between the FSLN and President Chamorro's administration or—why not state it clearly—the administration of Antonio Lacayo, the man who really runs this country.

Unfortunately, there is an immoral marriage between Mrs. Chamorro's administration and the FSLN. There is a kind of blackmail, terrorism, force, and violence going on in which the FSLN has imposed its will on this wishy-washy government, thus causing a state of chaos in the nation.

This trip clearly shows the Nicaraguan people that the UNO is not mistaken, that there has been a betrayal of the UNO, as well as of the people, who on 25 February voted to end the FSLN in Nicaragua. Yet the person who is extending a hand to the FSLN to keep it from drowning and expiring is Antonio Lacayo, the top leader of Mrs. Chamorro's administration.

That Daniel Ortega is a part of the official delegation is a slap in the Nicaraguan people's face. Daniel Ortega represents 10 years of death, pain, and misery for the Nicaraguan people. The date 25 February marks the greatest demonstration of the people's repudiation of this disastrous personage. This situation reflects the blackmail the FSLN is using against the government to continue its political profile in the country.

[Unidentified reporter] Wilfredo Navarro, do you believe the joint government will become official this year and be converted into a dictatorship?

[Navarro] Actually, the joint government has already been made official in view of the fact that the abuses of the Chamorro administration are supported by the FSLN in the National Assembly. The government has periodic meetings with the FSLN leadership and, above all, there is a personal closeness and friendship between Antonio Lacayo and Humberto Ortega. There is no doubt—and this is the worst part of it for the Nicaraguan people—that a new dictatorship is being formed in this country. That dictatorship is creating a new bloc of economic power around Antonio Lacayo and his aides. This dictatorship is being cemented by a hired Army, an FSLN Army that has sold out to the interests of the current dictator, Antonio Lacayo.

We could ask: How can this be true of a man like Antonio Lacayo, who has a right-wing image, who could be called a businessman, and who has no known links to the FSLN? We have to say that, even before the victory on 25 February, Antonio Lacayo already had business deals and links to the FSLN. The people should remember that he was the creator of Cordenic, an organization that wanted to destroy the Higher Council of Private Enterprise. We could also state that, even before the UNO victory, Antonio Lacayo had done business with the FSLN, and was already a so-called patriotic businessman and manager of Grasas. It was the only large enterprise that was returned to a Nicaraguan, who just happened to be Antonio Lacayo.

Thus, it is important to point out that this new economic group has no ideology because dictatorships do not have ideologies. Dictatorships utilize ideologies to maneuver and grab political power. We should not concern ourselves with whether Daniel, Humberto, or Antonio Lacayo have the same ideology. They come together on the basis of common objectives: political power and economic privilege. Humberto Ortega and Antonio Lacayo are partners in many business deals and are thus interested in maintaining a state of affairs in this country that will allow them to develop their companies.

I just obtained information, for example, that the minister of the presidency has taken over 1,500 manzanas of

land in Morazan, Chinandega Department, to use for a shrimp breeding industry. That is fine, but the problem is that he is using international funds, resources provided as aid from Japan, for his personal benefit. The same was the true of the cooking oil case. There was a donation of $1.7 million from Denmark for the development of the cooking oil industry, and the minister of the presidency, coolly and with no sign of conscience, transferred it to Grasas, his private cooking oil company.

This demonstrates that we have here a new dictatorship that is worse than the dictatorships of the Somozas or the Sandinists because it is a mixture of the two. We could say we have a two-headed monster that threatens to devour all Nicaraguans. That is why we have to be alert and ready to stop these abuses that are occurring because of apathy on the part of President Violeta Chamorro, who doesn't understand politics, let alone economics. [end recording]

Disarmament Effort Exceeds Expected Costs

PA2603200292 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] Finance Ministry sources have revealed that the famous Operation Disarmament, in which weapons were to be purchased from recontras and recompas, has turned out to be more costly than expected. Reports from the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] and the Government Ministry had indicated there would be some 1,000 former rebels. When the time came to purchase the weapons, there were more than 10,000 rifles—in other words, 10,000 rebels.

The Finance Ministry sources added that a delegation currently in Washington is requesting an emergency allocation to complete Operation Disarmament. Vice President Virgilio Godoy said recently that the operation has been the business deal of the year because the weapons, which originally came from EPS warehouses, are being sold by alleged recompas to be returned to the warehouses they came from.

It is estimated that the government has spent some $20,000 on Operation Disarmament, without fulfilling its objectives, because there are still reports of many armed groups in the northern and central parts of the country. The occupations of Ocotal and the announced storming of Matagalpa indicate that not all weapons have been retrieved from the recontras and recompas.

Armed Men Reportedly Occupy Sugar Refinery

PA2703041992 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] About 70 armed men wearing bandanas over their faces forcibly occupied the Benjamin Zeledon sugar refinery in Rivas Department. This was carried out in accordance with the civic accords adopted during the meeting between the cabinet, presided over by Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo, and the directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front that lasted several The Government Ministry delegate in Rivas had guaranteed protection for the workers who decided to go back to work to save the country's sugar harvest. At about midnight, the Sandinist agitators fired their combat weapons, beat several union leaders affiliated with CUTS [Single Federation of Sandinists Workers], and halted production. The battered union leaders tried to see Government Minister Carlos Hurtado to demand that the government guarantee their jobs.

The armed Sandinist mobs said the Benjamin Zeledon sugar refinery belonged to them, and they would not allow any union to work because they have demanded to talk to the president of Cornap [National Corporations of the Public Sector].

Argentina

Bomb Threats Continue To Plague Buenos Aires

Uruguayan Embassy Threatened

PY2603175892 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1724 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Mar (NA)—The Uruguayan Embassy and Consulate were evacuated today due to a bomb threat, but Federal Police personnel have now "thoroughly" inspected the premises and did not find any explosive device.

The threat occurred at 0900 [1200 GMT] when a woman with a River Plate accent called the Uruguayan Embassy and talked with Ambassador Adolfo Diaz Estape's secretary. According to Carlos Mendive, the embassy's press attache, the woman said that three bombs had been placed on the premises and were going to explode.

At the time of the call, Ambassador Diaz Estape was returning to the embassy after attending a Rio Group foreign ministers' meeting in Buenos Aires.

Having received the telephone call, internal security agents at the embassy, which is located on the corner of Las Heras Avenue and Ayacucho Street, evacuated the few people who were working in the building at the time and immediately called the 17th Police Precinct, whose personnel arrived and "thoroughly" inspected the premises without finding any device.

Mendive told NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS that "it was lucky that at that time of day no one was working at the embassy. There is great indignation following the attack against the Israeli Embassy."

He added that the Uruguayan Embassy is protect by its own security personnel, and two members of the Federal Police are posted outside.

Finally, he explained that "many people, both Uruguayan and Argentine, visit the embassy because Buenos Aires is home to most of the Uruguayans who live abroad. For that reason, control is very difficult."

Spanish Embassy Threatened

PY2703034092 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2026 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Mar (TELAM)—Officials of the Spanish Embassy in Buenos Aires reported that anonymous calls made today warning about explosive devices in the embassy were false bomb threats.

An embassy employee told TELAM that the first anonymous call from a man was received at 1330. The man said that a bomb was going to explode in the embassy, which is located at 2075 Libertador Avenue in Buenos Aires.

Embassy personnel reported the threat to the 21st Police Precinct. A Federal Police bomb squad immediately went to the embassy. Ambassador Rafael Pastor was in the embassy when the call was received.

The second brief call by a man with the same voice was received at 1400. The man said: "The bomb will explode in 60 minutes."

The Spanish diplomatic mission was evacuated for one hour. After police personnel verified that it was a "false bomb threat," the employees returned to work.

Over 20 Threats Received

PY2603235892 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 26 Mar 92 p 1

[Text] (DYN-NA)—Over twenty anonymous hoax telephone bomb threats and two low power time-bombs planted in Buenos Aires kept the Federal Police explosive brigade on alert for almost a week running throughout yesterday.

Interior Minister Jose Luis Manzano meanwhile described the growing string of hoax threats apparently triggered off by the Israeli bomb attack as "the work of idiots who want to worry and sow chaos" in the people.

Explosive experts had to move into a Florida 680 building to deactivate a low power time-bomb. According to some reports the Florida building belonged to the Argentine Hebrew Association (SHA). However SHA Director Hector Shalom denied that the association had any offices in that area. Security in a number of buildings belonging to Argentine-Jewish organizations was tightened after the spread of bomb threats. Reliable Government House sources reported that strict security measures had also been stepped up there since the attack on the Israeli Embassy.

A similar bomb to the one found on Florida Street was detected by police at the Jardin Botanico after being tipped by an anonynous telephone informer.

Nine days after the Israeli Embassy terrorist strike police had to evacuate a number of buildings—including the Buenos Aires daily Pagina/12, the Diagonal Norte D line subway station and the Palermo offices of the America TV channel 2 to search for possible bombs. "We can't put up with so many threats at a time," police sources said.

A local news agency reported that Pagina/12 received a phone call stating that a kilogram of explosives had been placed in one of its machines.

By late yesterday afternoon police had counted a total of 27 bomb threats throughout Buenos Aires. No group claimed responsibility for any of the calls or bombs.

Menem, Nicaragua's Chamorro Sign Declaration

PY2603151892 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0054 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Mar (TELAM)—Argentine President Carlos Menem and Nicaraguan President Violeta

Chamorro today "strongly condemned" the attack on the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires. They also repudiated the recent coup attempt in Venezuela and expressed their "unrestricted and solid support" for Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez.

The two presidents also reaffirmed the need to strengthen Latin American integration. They expressed their commitment to the consolidation of democracy in Latin America and their conviction that the stability of the region's countries is "closely related" to their respective socioeconomic development.

That position is outlined in a joint declaration signed by Menem and Chamorro this afternoon during a ceremony in the White Hall of Government House. Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella and Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal Sanchez also signed an agreement to fight drug trafficking and an agreement eliminating the necessity of visas for travel between the two countries.

Before the joint declaration was signed, Presidents Menem and Chamorro exchanged decorations in the White Hall. Menem decorated Chamorro with the collar of the Order of Liberator General San Martin, and Chamorro decorated Menem with the collar of the Order of Jose Dolores Estrada "Battle of San Jacinto."

The two presidents then held a 40-minute working meeting in President Menem's office. The meeting was also attended by Foreign Ministers Di Tella and Leal Sanchez; Gerardo Biritos, Argentine ambassador to Nicaragua; and Gilberto Bergman Padilla, Nicaraguan ambassador to Argentina.

The joint declaration states that Menem expressed his "strong support for the Nicaraguan democratic process" and "emphasized the dedication to reconciliation and agreement" of the government of Violeta Chamorro. He also "praised" her efforts "for consolidating total peace by disarming civilians and reinserting them into civilian society."

The two presidents "strongly condemned all forms of violence and terrorism because those things are contrary to democracy, its institutions, and the state of law." They particularly "strongly condemned the serious attack recently carried out against the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires."

Menem and Chamorro emphasized that developed countries "will play an important role" in the socioeconomic development of the region's countries. They also said that "they hope that the philosophy behind the Americas Initiative" advocated by U.S. President George Bush "will create realistic projects that will contribute to the overall development of Latin American societies."

The joint declaration says that the two presidents expressed their "commitment to the consolidation of democracy in Latin America." In this regard, "they reaffirmed their full support for the commitment made in Santiago at the 21st OAS General Assembly."

Within that framework, they stressed the "need to strengthen the OAS role in all its activities and emphasized the important work being carried out by the mechanism of political consultation and agreement in the different aspects of Latin American problems."

They also expressed their "approval of the creation of the Common Market of the South (Mercosur)" and their "mutual interest to sign as soon as possible an agreement on investment guarantees" to strengthen trade.

In the economic field, Menem and Chamorro expressed their "consent for the efforts made and the results obtained by their respective countries in the implementation of adjustment programs and stabilization policies." The declaration also says that President Menem offered Argentine cooperation in agriculture, energy, and technical training.

In addition, being "aware of the situation of the Nicaraguan economy and having decided to contribute to its stability and recovery," the Argentine Government "will refinance with favorable terms Nicaragua's debt with the Argentine Central Bank."

"In view of the exceptional circumstances that exist in Nicaragua," Menem "formulates a call to the international community and international financial organizations supporting the economic recovery of Nicaragua and calls for economic and social agreements," the document indicates.

In other passages of the declaration, the two presidents agreed on the importance that the regional peace process has for the international system, the American Continent in particular, and they highlighted the importance "of the Central American negotiations in the delimitation of weapons and military personnel to achieve a reasonable balance of forces in the region."

They also expressed their satisfaction regarding the process for re-establishing democracy in Haiti, they expressed their "concern" over the degradation of the environment, and they expressed their profound concern about the increase in the illegal traffic and the improper use of drugs and psychotropic substances (?and thus they) understand that "international cooperation is very necessary" to combat "such a serious challenge."

Chamorro Ends Visit

PY2703002292 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2254 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Mar (TELAM)—Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro departed for Santiago, Chile from the military sector of Aeroparque Metropolitan Airport at 1941 today.

Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella, other Argentine Foreign Ministry officials, and Papal Nuncio Ubaldo Calabresi saw her off at the airport.

Debt Talks Reportedly Reaching 'Final Stage'

PY2703001092 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 26 Mar 92 p 3

[Text] (DYN)—Argentina and the Steering Committee of foreign creditor banks "are approaching the final stage of debt negotiations," Foreign Debt Undersecretary Horacio Liendo said yesterday. He added that a final accord could be reached "within the next 10 days," and possibly announced during the annual reunion of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to be held in Santo Domingo between April 4 and April 8.

Liendo was scheduled to leave for the US last night, where he will join Argentina's negotiating team. The delegation and the creditor banks are slated to meet in New York on Friday [27 March].

"We are offering (the banks) all we have to offer, so we are expecting a positive reply," Liendo said. The offer, Liendo confirmed, will consist of a 400 million dollar cash payment to cancel interest arrears worth over eight billion dollars, and the refinancing of the debt over 15 years, with a six-year grace period.

Additionally, Argentina will request a 37.5 percent reduction of the 31 billion dollar commercial debt. The total foreign debt currently amounts to 61 billion.

Brady accords enabled Mexico and Venezuela to reduce their foreign debts by 35 and 32 percent respectively. The IDB annual meeting will be attended by creditor banks representative William Rhodes, Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo and US Treasury Undersecretary David Mulford, among other officials. A government source said yesterday the much-sought-after agreement could be announced by Mulford. The US is committed to supporting Argentina, the source said.

Military Industries To Be Privatized by Dec

PY2703001292 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 26 Mar 92 p 3

[From the "Business World" column]

[Text] (NA-DYN)—All the firms of the military-industrial complex Fabricaciones Militares [Military Industries—FM] will be privatized by this December, including arms and explosives factories, Defence Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez announced yesterday. His ministry will maintain a small percentage of shares and veto power in the four arms and explosives companies until now run by the military, Gonzalez said. The largest company of the complex, Altos Hornos Zapla, has been sold to a French, US and Argentine consortium and will be transferred to its new owners on April 30. Fabricaciones Militares showed a loss of 200 million dollars during 1991, despite the reduction of employees from 8,593 to 1,974, and its total foreign and domestic debt is 500 million dollars, according to outgoing FM commissioner Jorge Pereyra de Olazabal, who is also Defence Planning Secretary. He will be replaced at FM by Luis Sarlenga, a former president of the association of provincial banks.

Bolivia

Deputy Lanza Calls U.S. Ambassador 'Liar'

PY2603220092 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 19 Mar 92 p 5

[Excerpt] Refuting the recent explanation by the U.S. ambassador, Deputy Gregorio Lanza yesterday said: "The U.S. ambassador, Charles Bowers, is a liar."

A few days ago, press reports datelined Santa Cruz claimed that the DEA refused to provide helicopters to take the members of the congressional commission investigating the killing of Professor Noel Kempff Mercado and two of his companions to Huanchaca, in the Caparuch mountain range, to reenact the killing.

During a news conference on 16 March, U.S. Ambassador Charles Bowers denied those reports, saying that the petition was made too late. He stated that they wanted to use the helicopters 12 hours after the petition was made.

The U.S. ambassador's "clarification" was described as a justification that did not correspond to the facts. Lanza said: "The ambassador is a liar. This was negotiated two weeks ago, and the U.S. Embassy did not want to cooperate. That was very clear. All the points he has raised are false."

It has also been learned that some members of the Chamber of Deputies Constitution and Drug Trafficking Joint Commission who, following a Chamber of Deputies' plenary mandate, are investigating the Huancha case and its involvement, have received threats and have been harassed over the past few hours by anonymous telephone callers.

Deputy Gregorio Lanza said that a tense situation surrounds the entire investigative process, which is reaching its final phase.

Asked if members of the Chamber of Deputies Constitution and Drug Trafficking Joint Commission, which is investigating the Huanchaca case, have asked for police protection for themselves and their families, the congressman said: "We did not ask for it, but the Chamber of Deputies provided additional security when the investigation began. Nevertheless, it is very difficult to provide security in our country. I believe security exists to the extent that the media realize that the investigation is honest. We have received nearly all the data available to us. I do not believe they will interrupt the investigation because everyone involved in the investigation has the same data. Therefore, there are no elements being handled by just one person and unavailable to others. I do not believe we will be attacked." [passage omitted]

Low Salaries Cause 'Problems' With Police

PY2603153692 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Report by Nicolas Sanabria Garron]

[Excerpts] National police officials are concerned by the fact that some police units are in a state of emergency. Through several telephone calls placed to Radio Fides, National Police members yesterday confirmed that police garrisons in the country's interior are in a state of emergency in view of low police salaries. [passage omitted]

National Police Commander Jaime Cespedes has acknowledged the salary demands of his subordinates. General Cespedes admitted that low salaries in the National Police encourage corruption. He said: We, therefore, will meet with the president to discuss a solution to this problem.

[Begin Cespedes recording] Everything is completely normal. I believe certain groups that are interested in creating tension and misinforming the public have been reporting a nonexistent situation.

The National Police Command is holding negotiations within the police force to discuss its members' needs. All of us are aware that the police force, like any other institution, is an organization that has its own needs and aspirations. The police command is concerned about all these problems, particularly salaries. We are looking for a solution to the problem. [end recording]

Moreover, Interior Minister Carlos Saavedra Bruno has denied that the National Police Force is in a state of emergency. He added that he held a meeting with high-ranking National Police Force chiefs a few hours ago to inform them about the government's salary policy.

[Begin Saavedra recording] We held a meeting to inform them about the Interior Ministry's resources. We also are studying the possibility of granting some sort of bonus to these people. But everything will have to be done within the margins established by the Planning and Finance Ministries. [words indistinct] [end recording]

In addition, the different labor groups have expressed support for the salary claims raised by the troops, noncommissioned officers, and officers of the National Police Force. [passage omitted]

Teachers Reject Proposal; Strike Continues

PY2603163492 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Joint communique issued by the Confederation of Bolivian Rural Teachers, CMRB, and the Confederation of Bolivian Urban Teachers, CMUB; date and place not given]

[Text] The Confederation of Bolivian Rural Teachers [CMRB] executive board and the Confederation of Bolivian Urban Teachers [CMUB] executive committee report the following to Bolivian teachers:

The Education Ministry officially reported on 25 March that it is offering teachers a differentiated salary increase.

Because that proposal implies that some will receive salary increases at the expense of others whose salaries will be decreased, and considering that it is not a true salary increase, the CMRB and the CMUB have rejected the proposal and have reasserted the claims we have made to the government.

Because the situation remains unchanged, we reassert the enforcement of the strike, and we instruct you to continue with mobilizations at the regional and local levels.

We also inform you that the Education Ministry has unleashed a misinformation campaign by reporting that some districts have accepted its salary proposal and lifted the strike.

All this is absolutely false because no district has accepted the new salary proposal or lifted the strike. On the contrary, all Bolivian teachers are staunchly struggling to gain the government's attention, not only for our salary demands, but for all other problems included in our petition.

Long live the Bolivian Labor Confederation; long live the teachers strike; no to starvation salaries.

[Signed] CMRB, CMUB

Drug Mafias Reportedly Not Aiding Terrorists

PY2603154492 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 19 Mar 92 p 7

[Text] Social Justice Under Secretary Gonzalo Torrico has stressed that in our country the drug-trafficking mafias are not supporting terrorist actions, and they certainly are not financing the activity and expansion of subversive groups.

"It is true that in neighboring countries, drug trafficking has been financing irregular groups. Here in Bolivia, the appropriate investigations are being carried out, but the links between terrorism and drug trafficking have not been established," he said.

Torrico stated that the investigation is continuing, but according to the information that has been collected so far, it can be guaranteed that no links exist between terrorists and drug trafficking.

Regarding remarks made by U.S. Ambassador Charles Bowers that there is presumably a drug laboratory near Huanchaca, Torrico stated that the information is being evaluated by the Intelligence Department of the Special Antinarcotics Force (FELCN).

He added that appropriate measures will be adopted as soon as the results of the evaluation are known, but in order not to obstruct the work that has been done so far and future operations, he did not go into detail.

Torrico also reported that the organization of the 10th International Conference on Drug Control is under way and will be held during the last week of April in the city of Santa Cruz.

Some 40 countries from South, Central, and North America and EEC and Japanese Government observers will participate in this conference.

The PRC also has confirmed its participation. It will be the first time that that country will participate an events of this kind, which shows that that country is showing concern and interest regarding the illegal trafficking of drugs.

Regarding the agenda, the under secretary indicated that it is currently being revised, but he stated that such topics as chemical precursors, interdiction tasks, legal aspects, and points pertaining to air transport, cargoes, and others will be discussed.

Brazil

Creation of Government Secretariat Approved

PY2703000592 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] In a special session today the Senate approved President Fernando Collor's bill creating the Government Secretariat. It will be headed by former Senator Jorge Bornhausen.

During the session, Marco Maciel, the government leader in the Senate, emphasized the importance of incorporating Minister-Designate Bornhausen into the government to help strengthen the political institutions.

The bill must now be signed by the president.

Collor Demands Investigation of Leoni Case

PY2603235492 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] President Fernando Collor has ordered a rigorous investigation into the charges brought against Strategic Affairs Secretary Pedro Paulo Leoni Ramos regarding Petrobras [Brazilian Petroleum Corporation] transactions.

Reporter Luiz Augusto Mendonca has more details:

[Begin Mendonca recording] President Collor has ordered Infrastructure Minister Joao Santana to rigorously investigate denunciations published by some newspapers on the strategic affairs secretary's involvement in commercial dealings with Petrobras.

The information was released by Presidential Press Secretary Pedro Luiz Rodrigues. According to the denunciation, Leoni Ramos is reportedly intermediating in the sales of petroleum by-products.

Leoni Ramos, who is in Spain, released an official note at the beginning of this week denying any involvement with Petrobras and saying that the denunciations are false. He will return from Spain on 27 March. [end recording]

PLO Denies Link To Argentine Attack

PY2603213292 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 26 Mar 92 p 18

[Text] In a note issued yesterday in Brasilia, the PLO representative in Brazil categorically denied charges by the Buenos Aires magazine NOTICIAS that his organization may have been involved in the bomb attack on the Israeli Embassy on 17 March. The note says the charges are "absolutely unfounded, disrespectful, and slanderous calumny." It adds that if NOTICIAS does not deny these charges, it will be sued.

According to NOTICIAS, the Chui Palestine colony in Rio Grande do Sul—600 km from Argentina—may have served as a stopover for the terrorists. The magazine pointed out that the PLO representative in Brasilia, Ahmad Subhi, visited the colony last week.

The note states: "The Palestine community in the south of the country is large and perfectly integrated into all Brazilian sectors." "Therefore, it is constantly visited by the PLO representative. These visits are organized beforehand and are always made public."

The note then says that in the towns he visits, Ahmad Subhi meets with government authorities, whom he "briefs on the situation of the Palestinian people in view of the occupation by Israel, which deports and murders people and destroys houses and plantations."

Correction To Economy Minister on Taxes, Debt

WA2603191491

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Economy Minister on Taxes, Debt, Salaries," published in the 20 March Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 27:

Page 28, column one, first paragraph, first to second sentence, make read: ...President Fernando Collor canceled or suspended the need for taxpayers to present information regarding their credit cards. Credit card companies however, refuse to release their lists. How will you... (rewording)

Paragraph two, sentence one, make read: ...I think President Collor's understanding with regard to taxpayers over presentation of this information, which has been requested without prior warning, should make credit

card companies conscious of the need for and the fairness or our request... (rewording)

Colombia

Gaviria Speaks on Peace Talks, Tax Reform

PA2703041892 Santa Fe de Bogota Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 0230 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Speech by President Cesar Gaviria at the Narino Presidential Palace in Santa Fe de Bogota—live]

[Text] Colombians: A year and a half ago I assumed the Presidency of the Republic and promised all Colombians I would modernize the state; internationalize the Colombian economy; strengthen our justice system; and, of course, advance the search for peace for all Colombians. In a year and a half we have accomplished much toward achieving these goals we all share. I realize there are concerns among our citizens that I now wish to address.

I must start by referring to Argelino Duran Quintero. Duran was a good, honest, and polite man who served Colombia and his Norte de Santander Department. Unfortunately, he fell into the murderous hands of the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB], which had no consideration for his age, dignity, and years of service to our country. He was murdered. He was brutally murdered by his kidnappers who even continued to make demands of the government, society, and his family after he had been murdered and his death was known.

In light of these circumstances, I called Presidential Peace Adviser Horacio Serpa and members of the negotiating commission to consultations to review the peace process, to make a stop on our journey, and to demand from the CNGSB a cease-fire and discussion of the kidnapping problem. It is inconceivable that while we Colombians are voicing our hopes for peace, while we support the peace process, and while we have found support for the peace process in Colombian life and in all its political groups, the CNGSB is responding with blood, violence, terrorism, and the sacrifice of a good Colombian such as Argelino Duran Quintero.

Some Colombians are even wondering why the government is holding talks with the guerrillas: It is to find a political solution. This has happened in Colombia's past, in its history. In the past two years we have managed to convince four guerrilla groups—namely, the Popular Liberation Army, 19 April Movement, Quintin Lame, and Workers Revolutionary Party—to reincorporate themselves into Colombian life, lay down their arms, join political life, and achieve their objectives through peaceful means today.

That is why we believe in political solutions. We will pursue them and insist on our peace policy. We are now in Mexico trying to achieve peace. However, we need a response from the CNGSB regarding their determination to achieve peace for the national government and all Colombians.

We have now moved into a phase in which we are listening to the CNGSB's demands. We will also listen to the positions on those issues that other protagonists of Colombian life might have, including leaders of associations, unions, and political parties.

We can do so because we are not afraid of discussing our policy and the achievements of Colombians with CNGSB members. It does not matter how convinced we are that there is no reason for the armed struggle to exist and that communism has failed as a political plan in other areas. It does not matter how much Colombian society has advanced. It does not matter how much the members of the National Constituent Assembly have advanced in transforming Colombian society, in establishing the rights of citizens in the Constitution, and in creating efficient means to protect those rights. It does not matter that we have advanced in reinforcing justice and creating a general prosecutor's office. It does not matter that we have advanced in giving new instruments to political groups and parties so they can exert political control over the government. It does not matter that we have made so much progress in areas where the guerrillas demanded fundamental changes for many years. It does not matter that we have also advanced in defending human rights. It does not matter that we have advanced in creating a social policy of subsidies for education to increase our coverage significantly: from 46 to 70 percent. We will have two million secondary school students; they will be taking the secondary school courses. It does not matter that we have advanced so much in creating subsidies and scholarships. We gave 100,000 scholarships last year as an initial program to create a climate of peace, solidarity, and coexistence. We are implementing a policy of giving direct subsidies in social housing programs. We want to reinforce and enrich this social policy.

We Colombians truly hope the CNGSB members will have an appropriate answer to the peace policy to which the government is committed. We hope their response corresponds to the generosity of the people of Colombia and the tolerance with which Colombian society treats them. They must realize that just as the government has a political solution in its hands, it is also prepared to respond by strengthening the Armed Forces.

We are doing that without hesitation or compensation for past mistakes. Last year we collected 50,000 million pesos with the ill-named war tax. That money was used to create two additional mobile units with mature and well-trained professional soldiers who are fully capable and ready to face the guerrillas. We also reinforced the intelligence corps. We created a far-reaching intelligence plan within the Armed Forces that increased by tenfold the Armed Forces' ability to purchase information. We did the same with the Administrative Department of Security and the police. This plan has made it possible to

give state and Armed Forces security corps the power to deal with this sort of political crime and any sort of crime. We increased the number of police and Navy personnel by over 12,000 to redouble protection for bridges, telecommunications towers, and National Institute of Radio and Television towers and to carry out a far-reaching plan to keep the CNGSB terrorist hordes from destroying our infrastructure and heritage, as they have been doing mercilessly, prompting mass protests by people hurt by the CNGSB's destructive and ruthless actions.

The response by the state, therefore, can be found here: In reinforcing our ability to provide security; in reinforcing our Armed Forces; and in feeling assured that, regardless of the outcome of the peace process taking place in Mexico, Colombian society has the means to respond. Colombian society has the means to punish a class of political criminals who are increasingly becoming common criminals; they are turning into veritable bandits who are destroying Colombian life, and they deserve a strong and united response from Colombians. I also want to invite all Colombians tonight to come out in support of our Armed Forces, in support of our legitimate authorities, and in support of our democracy. Let us come out and protect our democracy and institutions from these inexplicable actions by sectors that have no justification for continuing the armed struggle and no longer have any legitimacy in the face of our democracy. All of us are going to strive to defend the legitimate use of force, which is held by our Armed Forces, the Colombian state, and the government of our country.

Now I want to talk about another issue troubling Colombians: tax reform. We have already submitted the tax reform bill to Congress as an act of responsibility to my fellow countrymen because I want to have a house in order. A tariff reduction policy was implemented to promote the opening of our economy, which reduced our tariff levels to a third of what had previously existed in the country. The tariffs were actually taxes. As a result of that decision, it is necessary to compensate the reduction in tax revenues with other taxes, which in this case will have a special impact on sales tax and will be an attempt to increase the coverage of sales taxes.

I perfectly understand certain reactions from business associations, columnists, and from other sectors because it is sometimes painful to accept a tax increase. In this case it is not too much, but the president's responsibility, the government's responsibility, is to keep our public finances in order. This is absolutely necessary so the Board of Directors of the Bank of the Republic, which was created by the Constituent Assembly, can implement policy against inflation, can work to increase the value of our currency, and of course, so it is not forced to dismiss government employees.

It would have been easier for the president to elude those responsibilities. I do not elude them. I face problems, and I want to be sure that Colombia's economic environment is a healthy one, as has been the long tradition in our history. I do not want to break that tradition. That is why I have called on the solidarity of my political party, the Liberal Party, and other political parties to review carefully this initiative by introducing changes, making it more acceptable to eliminate potential injustices. We want to approve an initiative that can contribute to our national interests and to a healthy public finance environment. That is why we have also asked the government for greater austerity. We have drastically cut administrative expenditures. We have a policy of great austerity in our public expenditures, which I demand from all government employees. It is a small request compared to the efforts many Colombians will have to make.

The tax reform is fundamentally aimed at punishing and taxing luxury consumption, primarily among the most affluent sectors of Colombian society. It is in no way aimed at sacrificing workers, employees, and common citizens, who will be, in large part, the great beneficiaries of a healthy Colombian Government budget, an orderly economic policy, and national public finances at equilibrium levels. They will benefit from a government that can pay for roads, social policy expenditures, nutrition, recreation, sports, health, and education, which should be the primary concerns of the Colombian Government.

The other issue I would like to discuss is power rationing. I am sad to see, as are all Colombians, that we have reached such an extreme situation. The fundamental reasons for the power rationings is the El Nino phenomenon and the drastic decrease in rainfall in Colombia since last year. It is the worst phenomenon of its kind in the last 40 years. Of course, that is not the only reason. It is the primary reason, but not the only reason. There are other reasons for the rationing, such as the delay in finishing some installations like (El Guabio) and Rio Grande. These installations should have been finished on time, but they were not finished due to financial problems, the severe crisis in the energy sector that has existed for many years, and mistakes that were made by the different administrations.

Power rationing is also due to the labor problems that affected the entire energy sector and disrupted all the maintenance programs at the thermoelectric plants. The measures are also a result of guerrilla activities. At this very moment, for instance, Term Tasajero, which could be supplying the whole electrical system with 80,000 kilowatts, is out of service thanks to the destruction of several power pylons between Cucuta and Bucaramanga. It has also been mentioned recently that there may have been problems in water management last year. Power companies made some mistakes by not generating enough power at the thermoelectric plants, in addition to not using the dams in 1991.

All these factors have contributed to the present rationing problem, which I hope will not continue after

May. This, of course, depends on when the rains begin all across the country and whether they are later than May or not.

I would like to call upon the industrial companies this evening. The majority are not complying with the power rationing measures and may be forcing us to take more drastic steps later. This behavior, in addition to the fact that their attitude demonstrates a lack of solidarity, is unjustified when the well-being of the people has been sacrificed to protect the country's production infrastructure and not affect the country's production levels during this time of rationing. For all these reasons, I ask for your understanding and patience and for your efforts to conserve energy.

I believe I have addressed three issues that are reasons for concern among Colombians, three issues that hold the attention of Colombians. I hope all of you have confidence in our country. I hope you are optimistic and are sure that the country's most difficult times have been left behind. I hope you are confident that the enormous effort we are making to modernize the nation's institutions, to make Colombia move forward, to internationalize its economy, and to strengthen its justice system, will make our country ever more prosperous, peaceful, confident, and self-assured.

Good night and thank you.

Adviser Requests Support for Peace Process

PA2703024492 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Presidential Peace Adviser Horacio Serpa Uribe has requested the support of political parties and asked that their criticisms be well founded. In a letter addressed to the representatives of seven political parties, the head of the government's negotiating team defended the peace talks and said he would rather make a mistake in making peace than be right in making war. This man is not for war. That is what Horacio Serpa Uribe told political parties and those who have described him as the rebels' stooge.

[Begin Serpa recording] More war means more deaths, destruction, poverty, kidnappings, and taxes. I am saying this even before the government's decision on the Tlaxcala talks is known. The negotiations certainly call for deep reflection. I am absolutely convinced the talks will be weak without a climate of tranquility and the immediate possibility of a cease-fire because—like it or not—they will always be subject to the unpredictable nature of confrontation. [end recording]

Serpa is also unhappy with the attitude of the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNGSB].

[Begin Serpa recording] The CNGSB must make more gestures of goodwill; the government has. I think it is important now for the CNGSB to act in line with the sentiments of the people for the sake of Colombia, the peace process, and peace in the country. [end recording]

His statements at the news conference enable us to reach the following conclusions: there will be a new round of talks; the death of former minister Argelino Duran Quintero interrupted talks that were turning out to be positive; the government needs strong support from the people, and that is why it is demanding the support of the parties; and the peace process needs the support of the people because the support given thus far has been insufficient.

Foreign Minister Comments on Gulf Border Dispute

PA2603155492 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] Colombia will not negotiate its rights over the Gulf of Venezuela because they are very clear; we discuss only the border delimitation and its regulation. Foreign Minister Nohemi Sanin Posada made this statement on the "Face to Face" program, directed by Dario Arizemendi. The minister advised: We are a waterfront country with coasts on the Gulf of Venezuela. We have our rights, as specified by international law.

She said those rights had been upheld in the negotiations and we are sure they will be recognized. There is no room for objecting to these rights because they are clear and strong. The foreign minister said these rights will not only be recognized but will be regulated at the national and international levels.

Foreign Minister Sanin Posada said the weakening of the government of President Carlos Andres Perez, who is interested in a negotiated solution to the conflict, will not make Colombia doubt its rights. She added that other methods could be used in the event direct negotiations are eliminated, and this possibility has been taken into consideration in the San Pedro Alejandrino Agreement, which was signed by Venezuelan President Perez and former Colombian President Virgilio Barco and later ratified by President Cesar Gaviria.

Such methods, the minister noted, could be mediation, conciliation, and good offices. If not, there are other international agreements that offer alternatives. She rejected charges that she has been too soft concerning some remarks made by Venezuelan officials on the gulf issue. Foreign Minister Sanin Posada said we must not confuse prudence and rationality with firmness because we do not want to create additional conflict under that country's present circumstances.

Trade Minister on Agreement With Venezuela

PA2603175292 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Telephone interview with Foreign Trade Minister Juan Manuel Santos by unidentified reporter—live]

[Excerpt] [Reporter] Today we are pleased to talk with Foreign Trade Minister Juan Manuel Santos who, with the development and agriculture ministers, yesterday visited the Venezuelan border area. They had an opportunity to discuss the scope of and define the economic integration agreements with their Venezuelan counterparts.

Good morning, Dr. Santos. How would you summarize the agreements reached, and when will they be implemented?

[Santos] Good morning. I would summarize our trip as follows: First we went to Caracas and later to the border area to seal the integration process.

From the very beginning, we have adopted the strategy of separating completely the discussion over the Gulf of Venezuela from the discussion over economic integration. One should not affect the other.

I believe that mentality also exists in Venezuela. We were very pleased to notice that Venezuela shares our interest in not mixing the two topics and that one should not affect the other.

We met our Venezuelan counterparts and President Perez in Caracas. Later we went to the border area to seal the agreements. We reached agreements on some topics that had been pending such as the vehicle issue, which is of high public interest. We reached an agreement on the percentage of integration that will be allowed in each country so vehicles can be imported.

As of next week, Colombians will be able to purchase vehicles in Venezuela and import them without paying any taxes. [passage omitted]

Peru

State of Emergency Extended in 3 Departments

PA2703032192 Paris AFP in Spanish 2015 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] Lima, 26 Mar (AFP)—The Peruvian Government has extended the state of emergency for 60 days in several localities in three Amazonian departments "to facilitate counterinsurgency operations" by the security forces, it was officially announced on 26 March.

The executive decree, published in the official EL PERUANO gazette states that the Armed Forces Joint Command requested the extension of the state of emergency in two provinces in the Department of Acayali, one province in Loreto, and one in Huanuco. All the affected towns are located in the Peruvian Amazon area in the country's northeastern region where, according to Peruvian authorities, there is constant guerrilla and drug trafficking activity.

* Results of New Consumer Confidence Index Noted

92SM0309B Lima SEMANA ECONOMICA in Spanish 17 Feb 92 p 6

[Article by Alfredo Torres]

[Excerpts] We present below a new index prepared by APOYO S.A. which will be published exclusively by this magazine on a monthly basis. It is the APOYO Confidence Index (ICA). Alfredo Torres was asked to explain the purpose of this index.

An important part of the success of an economic program is supported by the confidence which it creates among the people. For example, it is stated that the solution to the present, North American recession will depend on the confidence of the consumers themselves that the country is emerging from the recession. Thus, economic analysis makes it necessary to pay more attention than ever to so-called indices of consumer confidence. The best known indices of confidence in the United States are those of the Michigan Index of Consumer Sentiment, which has been prepared since 1952, and the Conference Board Consumer Confidence Index, which has been recordered since 1967. Both indicators are developed on the basis of different series of questions aimed at measuring the attitudes of the people on the functioning of the economy in terms of the past and the future. [passage omitted]

In reality, as Everett Carll Ladd, president of the Roper Center for Public Opinion Research, has stated, the greatest value of indices of confidence lies in their function as barometers of the state of mind of the people, rather than in their ability to anticipate precisely their purchasing plans.

Along this line of interpretation the APOYO Division of Opinion and Marketing has been accumulating information since 1986 for a project called "The APOYO Confidence Index" (ICA), which is presented in this issue to readers of SEMANA ECONOMICA. The ICA is developed on the basis of answers to four questions which measure support for the president's administration of the government, the approval of economic policy, an evaluation of the family economic situation as compared to the recent past, and expectations regarding the future of the family economy.

The APOYO Confidence Index (ICA) is a composite number developed on the basis of answers to the following questions:

- Do you approve or disapprove of the performance of the president of the Republic?
- Do you approve or disapprove of the economic policy being followed?
- How is your family economic situation compared to what it was six months ago: better, the same, or worse?

- What do you think that your family economic situation will be within six months: better, the same, or worse?

APOYO Index of Confidence by Social and Economic Level

Period	Total	Level A	Level B	Level C	Level D
Jun 86	5.6	2.9	5.9	6.7	6.6
Nov 86	3.7	3.2	3.3	4.0	4.0
Nov 87	-1.3	-6.0	-2.5	-0.9	-0.5
Aug 88	-4.8	-5.3	-5.3	-4.4	-4.5
Apr 89	-7.8	-6.9	-8.1	-7.7	-8.2
Feb 90	-3.6	-4.2	-3.1	-3.4	-2.9
Jun 90	-4.2	-8.1	-5.0	-3.9	-3.2
Sep 90	1.5	4.3	1.8	1.5	1.0
Dec 90	2.8	3.4	2.8	2.0	1.9
Mar 91	-2.3	-4.6	-2.4	-2.3	-1.6
Jun 91	-2.0	-0.7	-2.5	-2.2	-1.8
Sep 91	-2.3	0.1	-1.4	-1.3	2.0
Dec 91	2.6	-1.1	6.0	3.4	0.0
Jan 92	1.8	4.9	2.8	2.5	-0.2
Feb 92	1.2	4.4	2.8	1.6	-0.3

Prepared by APOYO S.A.

As will be seen in the above table, the ICA recorded its highest level (5.6) in June 1986. After then it began to fall as the economic model adopted by the previous government was perceived as being obsolete. It reached its lowest point in April 1989 in the midst of hyperinflation and when the date for a change of government was still regarded as far into the future. From then on it was negative until the change in government. It subsequently increased until it reached a peak in December 1990, following the first effects of the stabilization program.

Nevertheless, confidence did not last long. In March 1991 it again fell and was at a negative point until the last measurement in 1991. After Peru formally returned to the international financial world and inflation declined, the index again rose (to 2.6). Since then the ICA has displayed a declining tendency until it reached a point (1.2) which, although it continued to be positive, reflected the slow loss of relative optimism which was felt at the end of 1991.

In terms of social and economic levels some differences were found which are very suggestive. The most notorious case was that of the wealthiest stratum, whose moment of the least confidence was not caused by President Alan Garcia but, indirectly, by Alberto Fujimori, since it was recorded in June 1990, immediately after the defeat of Mario Vargas Llosa in the second round of the presidential election. However, 18 months later the index reached its point of greatest confidence in January 1992.

The most recent poll in this series was carried out by APOYO in metropolitan Lima between 7 and 9 February, on the basis of a sample of 512 persons.

Venezuela

Students Arrested, Injured in Demonstrations

PA2603230192 Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Report by Clemente Segundo Diaz]

[Text] Twenty students, including Gerardo Ramirez, president of the Federation of University Centers in Carabobo, were arrested and 12 were injured in demonstrations in various parts of Valencia on 26 March. Among those injured were Hector Antones, Manuel Gonzalez, and Jose Luis Sanchez of the Education School, and Gregorio Reyes of the Engineering School; and the driver of one of the buses of the Federation of University Centers, who was taken to Carabobo Hospital after a policeman hurled a tear gas grenade inside the vehicle for unknown reasons.

The students were unable to complete the protest called The March of the Flags. The police tried to prevent it by intercepting the Federation of University Centers buses transporting the students to the place where the march was to begin. Deputies Melvis Humbria and Diogenes Linares and labor leader Ivan Garcia accompanied more than 200 high school students and those from the University of Carabobo, who departed from the bullfight

plaza singing the national anthem, waving the Venezuelan flag, and shouting slogans demanding the restoration of constitutional guarantees and against police repression.

The march continued to Bolivar Plaza, completing the first stage of the demonstration. From there, they marched peacefully to the University of Carabobo, specifically to the rector's office, which had been surrounded by soldiers since the early hours of the day. Before they could reach the office and when they were near our studios, the riot police provoked the demonstrators, who were marching peacefully. The police sprayed the demonstrators with so much water from water cannons that several fell to the ground.

The students reacted immediately, throwing stones and Molotov cocktails at the police, who in turn used bird shot and tear gas against the demonstrators.

At this point, Deputies Melvis Humbria and Diogenes Linares talked with the officers heading the police forces, who allowed the demonstrators to leave the area peacefully.

There also were clashes in other parts of the city: (Redoma de Guaparo), the rector's office at the University of Carabobo, the areas adjacent to the University of Parvula, and the La Maquita Educational Complex. As a result, 12 students were injured, a driver was taken to Carabobo Hospital, and 20 student leaders were arrested, including Gerardo Ramirez, president of the Federation of University Centers.

At this time, the Federation of University Centers is meeting to determine what actions will be taken to obtain the release of the student leaders arrested today.

Meanwhile, university authorities hold Carabobo State Governor Enrique Saraz Roemer responsible for the fate of the 20 arrested students and for the consequences of the injuries suffered by 12 students.

Further on Clash

PA2603192892 Paris AFP in Spanish
1827 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] Valencia, Venezuela, 26 Mar (AFP)—Radio stations in the country's central region have reported that disturbances broke out between students and policemen on 26 March in Valencia, an industrial city 80 km west of Caracas, after police prevented a student demonstration.

The protest or "March of the Flags" called for President Carlos Andres Perez to resign, the release of the military perpetrators of last February's thwarted coup, and the reestablishment of civilian and political liberties suspended seven weeks ago.

Because demonstrations are banned, the police repelled dozens of youths wrapped in the national flag colors (yellow, blue, and red) as they set out on the march. The demonstrators regrouped continuously by the dozen, as they did one week ago in eastern Caracas.

The police used tear gas and water cannons to disperse the demonstrators, who responded by throwing stones, causing street disturbances in Valencia.

Several students, including the presidents of the local university federation, were beaten and arrested, according to newsmen at the scene.

Groups of marchers left the routes initially mapped out and retreated toward local university buildings to continue their protests.

Coup Leader Warns of Possible High Command Move

PA2603213492 Madrid EFE in Spanish
1630 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] Caracas, 26 Mar (EFE)—Lieutenant Colonel Hugo Chavez, leader of the recent coup attempt against Venezuela's constitutional government, spoke from the prison where he is being held and denied the existence of differences among the military coupists.

Chavez and the other military personnel imprisoned in the San Carlos garrison in Caracas denied reports that they have differences of opinion. According to statements published by the local press on 26 March, the alleged differences were settled with fists.

DIARIO DE CARACAS reported in its 25 March edition that Chavez and Lt. Col. Francisco Arias allegedly disagreed on the leadership of the "Bolivarian Movement," which claimed responsibility for the 4 February abortive coup. Meanwhile, the official news agency, VENPRESS, reported that Col. Jeydi Cabrera, commander of the San Carlos garrison, said the imprisoned military leaders had a fight. According to the news agency, Cabrera decided to move Lt. Col. Jesus Urdaneta to another cell. Urdaneta had requested the change, claiming that he did not "want to know anything about the other two prisoners."

Besides Arias, Chavez, and Urdaneta, the other leaders of the coup attempt were Lt. Cols. Jesus Ortiz and Joel Chirinos.

For his part, Arias affirmed that the five military chiefs "are more united than ever," and warned of the possibility of a coup d'etat by the military high command.

Chavez said that they have information and clues about the possibility of an uprising and added that they have been visited by prominent people sent by the military high command who suggested a negotiation regarding a possible coup.

"We want to tell the Venezuelan people that we have nothing to do with such a coup because it would mean more of the same," he said. Chavez stressed that if the

high command did carry out a coup, "we would oppose it immediately and would call on the people to oppose it."

According to statements published by EL NACIONAL and EL UNIVERSAL, Arias said that the military high command "has lost a lot of prestige in the eyes of the officers and lacks control over the men who have the ability to fight a war." He assured that the generals "want" to stage a coup, but do not have the "moral strength."

Arias spoke about the position of former President Rafael Caldera, who on 4 February criticized the official thesis stating that the coupists planned to murder President Carlos Andres Perez.

According to Lt. Col. Arias, Caldera acted courageously. However, he said that they would have to meet with Caldera to discuss "our similarities and differences."

'Possible U.S. Intervention'

PA2603215192 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2057 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] Caracas, 26 Mar (NOTIMEX)—Leaders of the 4 February foiled coup in Venezuela warned on 26 March about the possibility of another military uprising, this time led by right-wing military commanders.

Coup leader Hugo Chavez said that he had information that people had been sent by the military high command to negotiate a possible alliance and to lead a new coup, which the rebels rejected.

Chavez, quoted by the local newspaper EL NACIONAL, rejected any alliance with the Armed Forces right-wing group, adding, "We want to tell the Venezuelan people that we have nothing to do with this."

The head of the uprising announced in his cell, located in the San Carlos Prison in Caracas, that—in this case—his men would lead a resistance and "we would urge the people to fight the coup."

Lieutenant Colonel Francisco Arias Cardenas, who controlled Zulia State for several hours on 4 February, ruled out the possibility when he said that "the military high command hads lost prestige with the officers," according to the newspaper EL UNIVERSAL.

He said that the Venezuelan Armed Forces commanders "lack authority to lead men capable of staging a war" like those belonging to the Bolivarian Movement, which led the foiled coup last month.

Chavez said that his movement, comprise of approximately 45 men, has considerable sympathy and support within the military. He harshly criticized Defense Minister Fernando Ochoa for stating that the Bolivarian Movement members are a small "lodge" of nationalist officers.

Referring to reports about a possible U.S. intervention in Venezuela to evict an eventual de facto regime, the rebel leader said that this would provoke "an independence war" in the nation, with a population of 20 million.

"Venezuela is not Panama or Grenada—invaded in 1990 [as received] and 1983, respectively by U.S. troops—and the Armed Forces would struggle against an intervention," except for some generals who, according to Chavez, would give in to the United States.

He said that one of the proposals planned by the foiled coup emphasized an all-out war against corruption, a rallying cry that the Venezuelan Government later adopted within the framework of several announced reforms and changes to overcome the current political crisis.

Chavez reasserted his intention to eliminate the current system of political parties in Venezuela because, in his opinion, they are not capable of changing their system or meeting the demands of the country's majority.

"We are not coupists, we did not want to destroy democracy. Quite the contrary, we struggled to defend it," he emphasized.

Deputies Reject Censure Vote Against Ministers

PA2703040492 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] The National Congress Chamber of Deputies on 26 March rejected censure votes against President Carlos Andres Perez' economic cabinet. He will have the last word whether they should be replaced. Zaida Pereira filed this report:

[Pereira] The country's interest was focused on this vote, which attracted much speculation because the Movement Toward Socialism called for a censure vote before the Chamber of Deputies.

This debate consumed three days of sessions at the Congress of the Republic. There were positions for and against a censure vote against the ministers of finance, agriculture and livestock, and coordination and planning.

A secret vote was requested on 26 March by the Chamber of Deputies, but this proposal was rejected by a parliamentarian majority. An uninominal vote was taken instead. The vote for the finance minister was taken first. To the joy of many and surprise of others, there was a tie vote: One hundred parliamentarians voted for and 100 against. A two-thirds majority vote is needed to approve a censure vote.

The vote for Agriculture and Livestock Minister Jonathan Coles was next. He received one more vote against him because of the withdrawal of a parliamentarian who had voted in favor of the economic cabinet; that is, 99 to 100. The censure vote was rejected.

A general vote was requested for the coordination and planning minister because of the short period of time he has been in office. The Social Christian Party and Democratic Action [AD] did not vote; only the minority parties voted. As a result, a censure vote was also rejected.

[Begin recording] [AD bloc leader Henry Ramos Allup] Our aim is not to try the economic policy or performance of any particular official. This is simply a sort of political ambush to continue promoting discontent, confusion, restlessness, and uncertainty among Venezuelans by weakening and destabilizing the government, which is absolutely censurable.

[Unidentified speaker] I actually believe the most interesting thing about all this is that a political will is being voiced and I hope this will lead to a rectification. Discussions such as this one are normal occurrences. The vote was close; everyone was trying to defend their views. [end recording]

[Pereira] A 13-member commission will be chosen on 27 March during a joint session of the Congress. It will be tasked with choosing the magistrates of the Supreme Court of Justice. Ten deputies and senators have already been appointed to this commission. The remaining three, who will come from minority parties, have yet to be chosen.

Interior Minister Apologizes to Journalists

PA2703023292 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Interior Affairs Minister Luis Pinerua Ordaz said on 26 March that neither his office nor the police corps had any intention of hurting journalists during the 19 March demonstrations.

[Begin Pinerua recording] The Interior Ministry is willing to cooperate in conducting a thorough investigation and establishing responsibilities if the case warrants. I would like to ask you to convey my apologies to all journalists. I have already made the necessary contacts to pay a visit to the Association of Journalists—either this week or next week—to discuss the matter, present the necessary apologies, and adopt procedures to be applied to prevent similar situations in the future. [end recording]